

Medical technician

Average salary: \$49,000

Career trend: growing very strongly

Job description

A medical technician works in a diagnostic lab or hospital using equipment to test bodily fluids, products and tissues to help doctors diagnose disease.

What medical technicians do

A medical technician conducts lab tests ordered by doctors and other healthcare providers.

Working with computerised instruments, automated equipment, machines, microscopes, and cell counters, they examine human tissue samples and bodily fluids to look for parasites, bacteria and other microorganisms.

After testing and examining a specimen, they analyse the results, identify abnormalities and give physicians the information they need to diagnose, treat and prevent disease.

Sometimes medical technicians will match blood for transfusions or test drug levels in a patient's blood to see how they're responding to a specific drug or treatment.

Medical technicians may also provide support to medical professionals by operating anaesthetic, cardiac, operating theatre, and medical testing equipment and filling prescriptions.

You'll like this job if...

You're organised and prepared. You have exceptional attention to detail. You appreciate routine and stay focused during recurring tasks. You love chemistry, biology and physiology. You're good at complex problem-solving and precise communication. You use critical thinking, reasoning, and logic to solve problems.



Will I get a job?

- Very strong growth in this occupation is predicted, with 6,600 new jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 39,800.

What will I earn?

- Up to \$950 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

Roles to look for

- Anaesthetic technician
- Audiometrist
- Cardiac technician
- Dialysis technician
- Medical laboratory technician or technical officer
- Mortuary technician
- Operating theatre technician
- Pharmacy technician
- Pathology collector
- Renal technician

A day in the life...

Work as a medical technician may involve these tasks:

- use equipment for monitoring the heart, kidneys, nervous system, and hearing
- undertake or help with medical analytical procedures
- help anaesthetists and surgical teams or pharmacists
- record electrical activity of the heart
- collect and label blood, urine and faeces, and analyse them
- stain slides and tissue sections for blood and histological examination
- perform diagnostic tests on tissues and body fluids
- test for diseases by looking for antibodies and immune response in samples
- set up, check and maintain operating theatres, anaesthetic work stations and life support machines
- conduct hearing assessments to identify hearing impairment, prescribe and dispense hearing aids and/or other listening devices and/or refer clients for further audiological or medical assessment
- refer prescriptions to pharmacists and help prepare medications.

Main employing industries

- Healthcare and social assistance

Other jobs you may like...

- Science technician

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Pathology Assistance (HLT37415)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 80.2%*

Certificate III in Pathology Collection (HLT37215)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 72.4%*

Certificate IV in Audiometry (HLT47415)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 92.7%*

Certificate IV in Hospital/Health Services Pharmacy Support (HLT47115)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 92.7%*

Certificate III in Sterilisation Services (HLT37015)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 85.5%*

Diploma of Audiometry (HLT57415)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Graduates employed or in further study: 91.5%*

Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology (HLT57915)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Graduates employed or in further study: 91.5%*

VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

For more information, visit



www.vet.nsw.gov.au

Information sources Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

© State of New South Wales through Department of Industry 2018. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (July 2018). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Industry or the user's independent adviser.