

## MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

[http://cos.gmu.edu/academics/undergraduate/majors/medical\\_technology](http://cos.gmu.edu/academics/undergraduate/majors/medical_technology)

### **Name and description of the field.**

Medical Technologists are health professionals who perform most of the laboratory tests essential to the detection, diagnosis and treatment of disease. In addition to using chemical, microscopic, and microbial techniques, they are responsible for maintaining quality control and supervising less-qualified laboratory workers.

### **What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?**

- Analytical thinking
- Problem solving skills
- Interest in science and medicine
- Manual dexterity
- Good communication skills
- Good judgment
- Sense of personal responsibility

### **If both B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, what are the differences in career/graduate school opportunities?**

Only the B.S. degree is offered at George Mason. Graduates often pursue graduate study in medical fields or medical research.

### **What are recent graduates doing? Locations and positions include:**

- hospitals, community and clinical labs
- FBI forensics lab
- Research lab technicians
- Medical and scientific Sales

Entry-level medical technologists are expected to be able to perform routine lab work in all areas: chemistry and toxicology, hematology and coagulation, blood banking, microbiology (including immunology, bacteriology, mycology and parasitology). At some hospitals, the medical technologists work rotating shifts, moving from department to department. In other hospitals, the medical technologists work solely in one department.

Medical technologists are expected to

- interact and communicate ethically and responsibly with other health professionals and with patients and their families;
- obtain patient samples such as blood
- respect the confidentiality of patient information;
- communicate laboratory results to qualified personnel;
- understand the ordering and interpretation of laboratory tests and confer with physicians as requested;
- organize work to expedite completion, giving priority to "stat" orders;
- be diligent and punctual and willing to work overtime when the work load requires it;
- participate in continuing professional education;
- support and participate in professional organizations and, as appropriate, in private and institutional efforts to enhance public understanding of health matters.

### **What kinds of practical experience are recommended to explore Medical Technology further?**

Working at a local hospital as a laboratory clerk or phlebotomist (person who collects blood for laboratory tests) provides insight into the field. See University Career Services'

## EXPLORING MAJORS

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### Resources for further information:

A key element in effective decision making is having sufficient information about the major or career being explored. Sources of information include people in the field, professional associations relating to the field, faculty and your career services counselor. Below are additional resources to aid in exploration:

**Online Resources:** <http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/biol.htm>

**Printed Resources:** (Career Services Library, 348 SUB1)

<http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/pmed.pdf> &

<http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/biol.pdf>

**Science Related Job/Internship Postings:** <http://cos.gmu.edu/students/careerservices> &

<http://www.aaas.org/careercenter/>

**Networking Resource:** <http://www.mentornet.net/>

### Pre-Health Resources:

- <http://prehealth.gmu.edu/>
- <http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/index.aspx#>
- <http://www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/ahec/>

### Professional Associations:

- **Advanced Medical Technology Association** - <http://www.advamed.org/MemberPortal/>
- **Mason Student Clubs/Orgs/Societies Science and Technology Umbrella** - [http://sa.gmu.edu/student\\_orgs/orgs.php#stu](http://sa.gmu.edu/student_orgs/orgs.php#stu)

### Is it possible to minor in Medical Technology?

No minor is offered.

### Whom should students contact for further information?

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