



Laboratory Assistant Background

Lab assistants work with medical professionals, researchers, scientists and laboratory technicians to identify and diagnose diseases, screen for illegal substances or develop medications and treatments. They may work in a medical lab, testing collected blood or tissue samples for diagnosing diseases or screening for illegal substances. They may also work in the science field, helping scientists and researchers with lab tests and experiments



Typical Activities

- Receiving and **processing samples** to identify suitability
- **Preparing test samples** using laboratory equipment
- **Performing laboratory testing** and preparing and **maintaining accurate lab records**
- Labeling specimens and **distributing them** to appropriate departments
- **Performing quality control** as directed by the Laboratory Manager
- **Cleaning and maintaining** the work area as well as all lab equipment and supplies

Education Required

Most have a **high school diploma** but training and/or work experience increases employability and scope of work

Pay

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Wage = \$16.37 per hour • National Job Growth = high | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS Wage = unknown • NYS Job Growth = high |
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Skills Needed For Success

- **Communication skills:** These include both written and verbal communication skills. Lab assistants need to communicate clearly and efficiently with others in the lab. They also need strong writing skills to take clear notes, create reports or write reports and summaries.
- **Interpersonal skills:** Also known as 'people skills,' these include cooperation and teamwork, all skills required to work effectively as part of a team in a laboratory environment. These also include active listening skills, which are integral to success, as lab assistants must listen to instructions from the scientists or medical professionals in order to correctly perform tasks.
- **Attention to detail:** This refers to the ability to be thorough and accurate when accomplishing tasks. Since lab assistant's responsibility supporting scientists or medical professionals in planning, setting up, and performing experiments and trials, they need meticulous attention to detail.
- **Technical skills:** Lab assistants typically must have an in-depth understanding of medical terminology. They may also be required to use complex laboratory equipment, such as cell counters or microscopes. These are all hard skills that must be learned.
- **Time management:** Since they carry so many responsibilities within a laboratory, lab assistants must proficiently manage their time. They must identify priorities and remain focused and on-track to ensure duties are carried out correctly and in a timely manner.
- **Analytical skills:** These skills refer to the ability to analyze and collect information to make decisions or reach a conclusion. The lab assistant uses these skills in support of the other scientists on staff, recording and analyzing data to reach a conclusion.

Sample Job Titles

Specimen processors, laboratory support technicians, clinical laboratory assistants, certified medical laboratory assistants.

Career Video: <https://youtu.be/c7HS3dBV3SI>

All information can be found at <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/what-does-a-lab-assistant-do>
 Additionally, take the online career interest profiler at <https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>