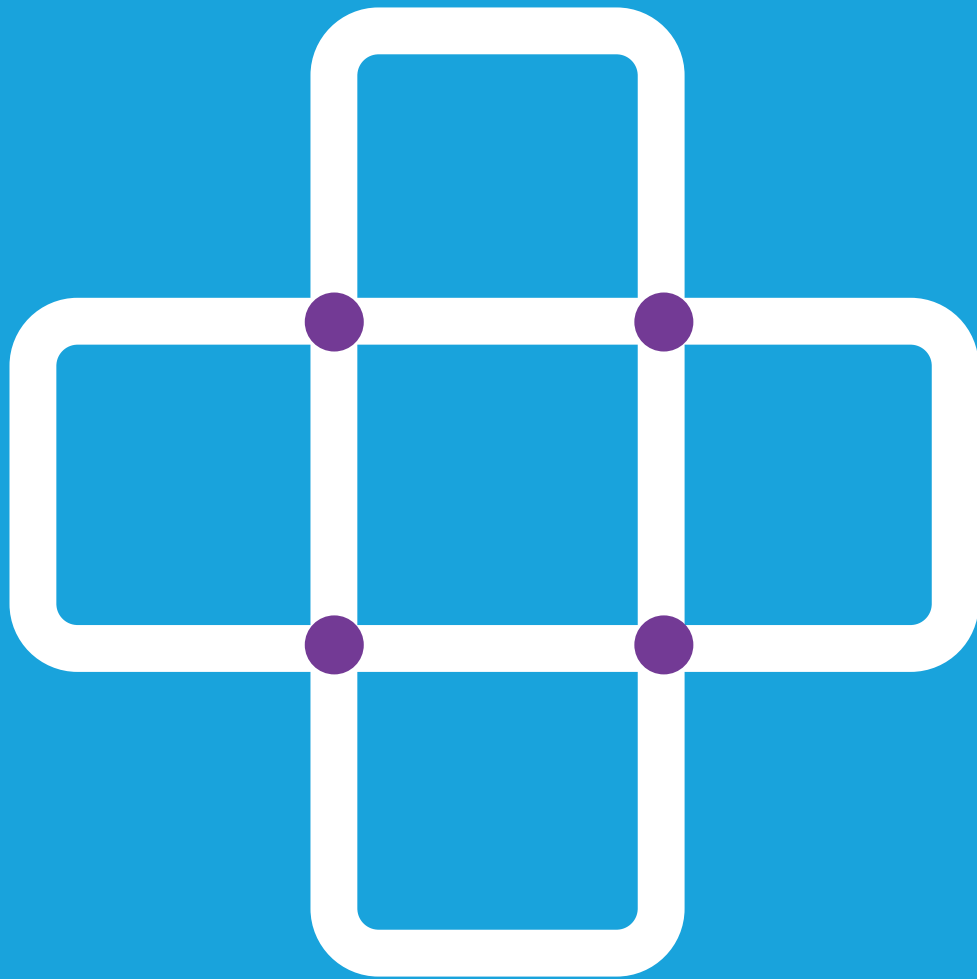


Health Care Technologist Career Guide

A guide for pharmacy technicians, radiologic technologists, surgical technologists, and medical and clinical laboratory technologists.



Finding Your Way to a Career: Health Care Technologists

Health care organizations rely on a wide variety of skilled technologists who specialize in various technological processes. Technologists administer a wide variety of tests and scans to assist in the treatment of patients. These individuals can also assist in various medical procedures or prepare medications for patients. You can encounter health care technologists in a traditional hospital setting, outpatient medical clinics, or pharmacies.

How to use this document to learn more.

As one of the Top 100 Hot Jobs for 2022, health care technologists is a promising occupation for job-seekers in West Michigan. To find out if this is the right career choice, use this Career Map to examine:

- Who might enjoy this kind of work.
- Qualifications needed in this career field.
- Growth potential and levels of pay.
- Valuable skills for this type of work.
- Common tools and technology used in this work.
- Occupations, responsibilities, and other job titles.

This information is drawn from national data and insights from West Michigan employers. It is meant as a starting point for job seekers and career coaches to work together in the exploration of meaningful and fulfilling careers.



Exploring Occupations as a Health Care Technologist

Health care technologists play an essential role in the care and overall well-being of their patients. As a health care technologist you might analyze laboratory findings, prepare medications, or process x-rays and other medical images. You may also apply dressings, bandages, or splints, and move patients to and from treatment areas.

The Path to Success

Who might enjoy this type of work?

People who enjoy working in the health care technologists field tend to enjoy:

- Practical, hands-on problems and solutions.
- Working with real world materials like wood, tools, and machinery.
- Following set procedures and routines.
- Having a clear line of authority to follow.
- Mental problem solving.
- Working with forms, designs, and patterns.

People who do well in this work generally perform well in such areas as:

- Responsibility
- Achievement
- Teamwork
- Decisiveness
- Adaptability

Qualifications needed in this career field.

Nationally, most people working as a health care technologist has some college education but no degree. The next largest group has earned an associate degree or certification. Quite often these positions will be required to get a license.

Sample certifications include:

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists

Credential Sample: American Medical Technologists

Radiologic Technologists:

American Registry Of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Certified, Registered Technologist/Technician, Radiology Certification

Pharmacy Technicians: Certified Pharmacy Technician

Surgical Technologists: Certified Surgical Technologist

Growth potential.

In the West Michigan counties of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa, there were 5,349 health care technologists jobs in 2020. That number is projected to grow by at least 5% to 5,594 by 2025.

Valuable skills for this type of work.

Tasks and functions performed by health care technologists include:

- Getting information.
- Assisting and caring for others
- Communicating with supervisors, peers, or subordinates.
- Identifying objects, actions, and events.
- Updating and using relevant knowledge.

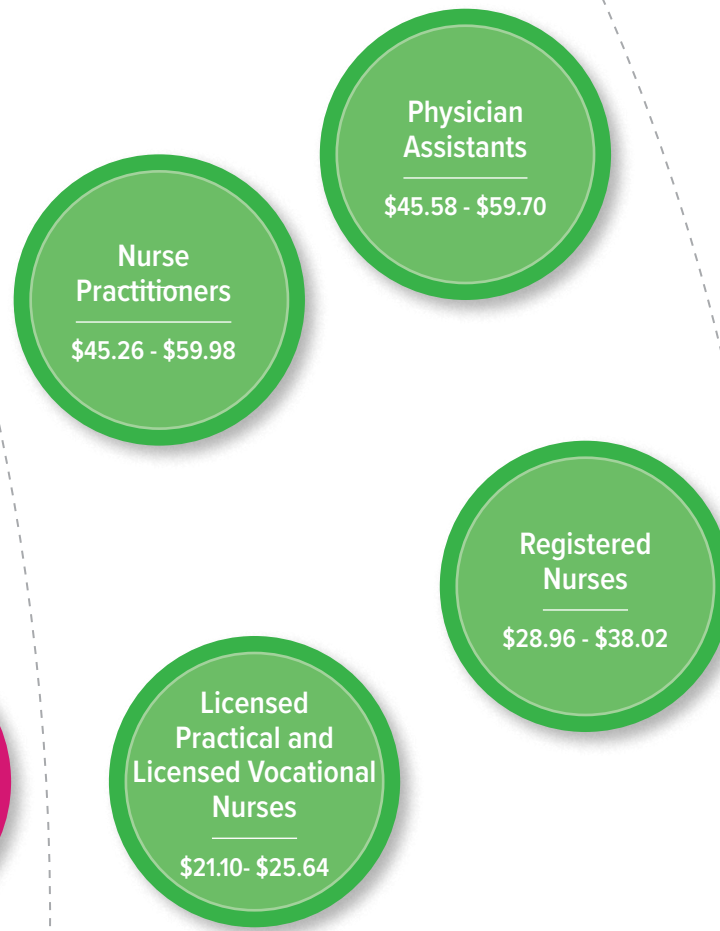
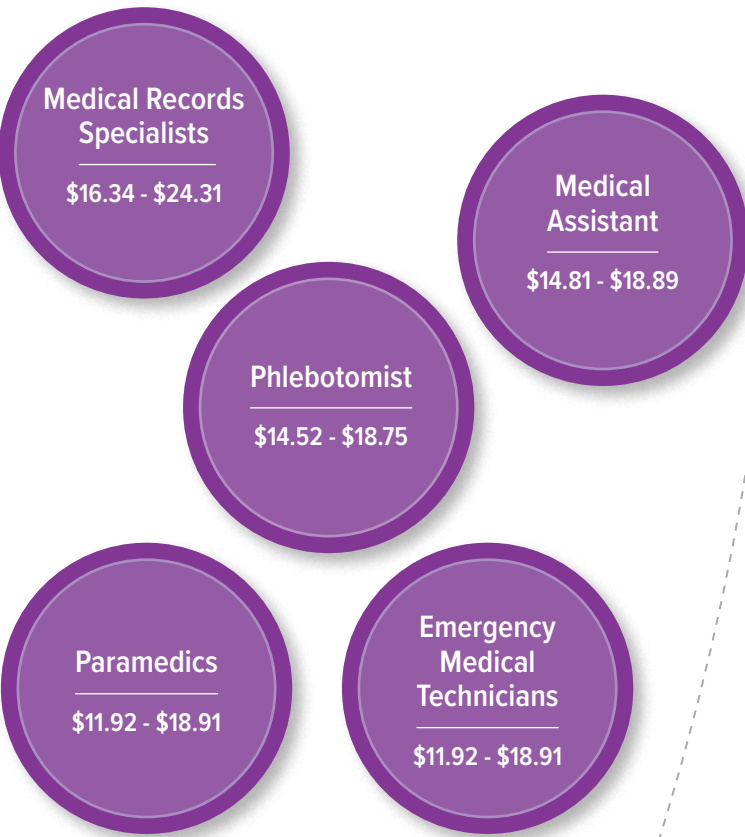
Common tools and technology used in this work.

Tools: centrifuges, microscopes, MRI scanners, medication dispensers, surgical lasers

Technology: medical health information software, diagnostic and procedural coding software, informational retrieval or search software

Mapping a Career

Medical And Clinical Laboratory Technologists
 Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
 Pharmacy Technicians
 Surgical Technologists



Wage ranges represent 25th - 75th percentile.
 Timeframes represent the typical education and experience combined.
 See page 6 for detailed description of occupations.

LESS THAN 2 YEARS

2-4 YEARS

5-9 YEARS

10+ YEARS

Health Care Technologists: A Field Guide

Occupations, responsibilities and other job titles.

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists

Perform complex medical laboratory tests for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. May train or supervise staff.

Examples of locally used job titles: clinical laboratory scientist (CLS), clinical laboratory technologist, histologist technologist, medical laboratory technologist, medical technologist (MT), microbiology technologist

Radiologic Technologists and Technicians

Take x-rays and CAT scans or administer nonradioactive materials into a patient's bloodstream for diagnostic or research purposes. Includes radiologic technologists and technicians who specialize in other scanning modalities.

Examples of locally used job titles: computed tomography (CT) technologist, mammographer, radiographer, radiological technologist, radiology technician, radiology technologist, registered radiographer, x-ray technician, x-ray technologist

Pharmacy Technicians

Prepare medications under the direction of a pharmacist. May measure, mix, count out, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications according to prescription orders.

Examples of locally used job titles: accredited pharmacy technician, certified pharmacy technician (CPhT), chemotherapy pharmacy technician, compounding technician, or pharmacy tech (operating room pharmacy tech), registered pharmacy technician (RPhT)

Surgical Technologists

Assist in operations under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. May help set up operating room, prepare and transport patients for surgery, adjust lights and equipment, pass instruments and other supplies to surgeons and surgeons' assistants, hold retractors, cut sutures, and help count sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments.

Examples of locally used job titles: certified surgical technician, certified surgical technologist (CST), operating room surgical technician (OR St), operating room technician (OR tech), operating room technologist (OR tech), surgical scrub technician, surgical scrub technologist, surgical technician, surgical technologist



West Michigan Works! is part of the statewide Michigan Works! system and the workforce development agency in West Michigan. We serve the employers and job seekers of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa counties.

We partner with employers, educators, economic developers and community organizations to create a qualified workforce that meets our region's current and future talent needs and fuels our shared economic future.

Learn more at: <https://www.westmiworks.org/>



CareerPoint helps students and job seekers find their place in the world of work by matching interests and abilities with training, support, and meaningful and rewarding careers.

By providing training and tools, CareerPoint supports the workforce professionals who help people navigate the West Michigan job market.

CareerPoint promotes evidence-based coaching to help students and job seekers discover and follow pathways to rewarding careers. This model follows seven steps to each participant's success.

Learn more at: <https://talnetcareerpoint.org/>