



Careers in the Licensed Professions

Cytotechnologist

Cytotechnologists use independent judgment to examine specimens of human tissue and fluid at a microscopic level to identify the characteristics of cells, including any abnormalities or organisms present. Other health professionals rely on cytotechnologists to help them diagnose illness and disease. These professionals also carefully document their work and perform critical processes to ensure accurate testing results.

Education

Bachelor's or higher degree in a [Department-registered](#) cytotechnology licensure program, or the equivalent.

OR

Bachelor's or higher degree with a major in biology, chemistry, or the physical sciences AND an advanced certificate in cytotechnology.

Examination

The ASCP Board of Certification examination for cytotechnology.

- ▶ Visit the [Office of the Professions](#) for a listing of all options and requirements.

Video



Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: \$77,061
- Salary range: \$70,008-\$84,215
- Projected growth: faster than average

Where Could I Work?

- Hospitals/clinics
- Clinical laboratories
- Government and research
- Education/training

Your Interests and Abilities

- Chemistry
- Biology and microbiology
- Scientific analysis
- Understanding of lab procedures

Professional Skills

- Knowledge of laws governing clinical laboratories
- Ability to manage stress
- Precision, organization, and observation

What Interests You?

Match your interests and personality to career options! Explore a free career tool at mynextmove.org/explore/ip

Tip: try searching for mentoring programs—talk to a cytotechnologist about what they do and how they got started!