



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career



Career Cluster:
Health Care & Human Services

Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians

Standard Occupational Codes 29-2011 and 29-2012

(Please note: the general information about this occupation pertains to the technologist level, code 29-2011; however, the employment and wage data on the reverse side includes both occupations.)

What They Do

Clinical laboratory technologists (commonly known as medical laboratory scientists) and clinical laboratory technicians collect samples and perform tests to analyze body fluids, tissue and other substances. They perform complex medical laboratory tests to diagnose, recommend treatment for and prevent disease.

Is This For You?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Investigative (Thinkers) — Interested in science and logic. They like to analyze, evaluate and solve problems, and enjoy learning and understanding the causes of events.

Realistic (Doers) — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

Work Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Achievement Orientation — A tendency to establish and maintain personally challenging work-related goals, set high work-related standards, and exert high effort toward meeting those goals and standards.

Intellectual Curiosity — A tendency to seek out and acquire new work-related knowledge and obtain a deep understanding of work-related subjects.

Cautiousness — A tendency to be careful, deliberate, and risk-avoidant when making work-related decisions or doing work.

Abilities reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Inductive Reasoning
- Near Vision
- Information Ordering

Work Activities

- Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance with Standard
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems
- Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Materials

Education & Training

A bachelor’s degree in medical technology or life sciences is recommended for clinical laboratory technologists. Some employers may hire those with less postsecondary education in those or a closely related field for technician level positions.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit StartTodaySD.com or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	5
Workplace Documents	5
Graphic Literacy	5

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of clinical laboratory technologists are:

- Hospitals
- Ambulatory Health Care Services
- Federal Government
- State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,283	1,408	125	9.7%	96	\$60,890	\$60,940

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center
www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop
www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online
www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture
<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

Provided By

Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation
605.626.2314

Visit dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. For details, see dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx.

Printed on recycled paper. 



August
2026