**HISTOTECHNICIAN**

**What do I do?**

I process tissue samples from patients for staining on a glass microscope slide used by the pathologist to diagnose cancers, infections and other diseases.

**My typical day includes:**

- Embedding processed tissue samples into paraffin wax blocks.
- Rotary microtomy (cutting) of tissue samples.
- Operating and maintaining laboratory equipment used in the processing or staining of tissue samples, such as H&E stainers, microtome/cryostat, tissue processors, or coverslippers.
- Entering patient information to corresponding case number of the tissue sample.
- Filing of glass slides and/or paraffin wax blocks for archival purposes.
- Performing special staining techniques for further diagnostic testing.

**Necessary Skill Sets**

- **PROBLEM SOLVING**
  Ability to troubleshoot equipment, staining, or processing issues that may occur within the course of the day.
- **CONVENTIONAL**
  Requires following set laboratory procedures and processes.
- **FLEXIBLE**
  Able to adjust to the volume and unpredictability of the workflow in the laboratory setting.
- **ATTENTION TO DETAIL**
  Ability to recognize inaccuracies in tissue processing, microtomy, and staining.

**Salary**

Mean Annual Salary*: $83,900 (Median: $79,800)

**Certification**

Earn certification as a Histotechnician (HT) from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC).

**Education Requirements**

Successful completion of a NAACLS (National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences) accredited Histotechnician program.

*or*

60 semester hours of academic credit from an accredited college/university that includes 12 semester hours of chemistry and biology or an Associate degree from an accredited college/university with a combination of 12 semester hours in biology and chemistry and one year of full time acceptable work experience in a histopathology (clinical, veterinary, industry, or research) laboratory or an accredited laboratory within the last five years or successful completion of a 50-week US military histotechnician training course within the last ten years.

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* Salaries are based on a national average and will vary by location and years of service and other factors.