

HISTOTECHNICIAN (HT)

What do I do?

A Histotechnician prepares and processes tissue samples for routine histologic techniques to be examined under a microscope by a pathologist. The histologic techniques include the following: fixation, processing, embedding, microtomy, and staining of human and animal tissue for evaluation.

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.



ADHERENCE TO PROTOCOL
Requires following set laboratory procedures.



FLEXIBILITY
Able to adjust to changes in test volume or workflow to meet patient care needs.



ATTENTION TO DETAIL
Performs work with accuracy, ensuring results meet parameters for test quality.

Education Requirements

An Associate degree in Histotechnology or a related laboratory science from an accredited institution.

Note: For examination eligibility requirements, including alternate education/training routes, refer to the link provided under the above certification section.

Certification

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

Salary

Mean Annual Salary*: \$79,955 (Median: \$75,296)

* Salaries are based on a national average and will vary by location, years of service and other factors. ([ASCP Data](#))