

MEDICAL LABORATORY DIRECTOR WITH DOCTORAL DEGREE

(Including PhD)

What do I do?

A Medical Laboratory Director provides oversight of medical and public health laboratories specializing in microbiology, chemistry, immunology or molecular diagnostics. They are responsible for the medical and scientific aspects of testing and are often responsible for maintaining the laboratory's accreditation. Working as a team with managers and medical laboratory scientists, they ensure quality of testing and help troubleshoot problems. Medical Directors are accountable for maintaining an appropriate test menu, and act as clinical consultants to providers. Laboratory directors, especially in academic settings, may be involved in teaching and research activities.

My typical day includes:

- Providing **technical oversight** to ensure accuracy of methods and results. **Selection** and **validation** of new test methods.
- **Ensuring appropriate testing practices** are in place through **quality control** and **quality assurance measures** that meet regulatory standards.
- **Providing clinical consultation** that guides test selection and **interpretation of results** that impacts treatment decisions.
- **Teaching** medical laboratory professionals, medical students, residents and fellows in the classroom setting or as they rotate within the laboratory department.
- **Maintaining knowledge** of the current science relevant to the laboratory by attending conferences, reading literature, acquiring training and engaging with colleagues.



Necessary Skill Sets



LEADERSHIP



PROBLEM-SOLVING



AN INQUISITIVE NATURE



COMMUNICATION



SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING



RESPONSIBILITY

Education Requirements

A doctoral degree in a chemical, biological, physical or clinical laboratory science from an accredited institution. Two years of post-doctoral laboratory training which usually occurs through a fellowship program.

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

Certification

American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM), Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine ADLM formerly AACC

[Earn certification as a diplomate in Medical Laboratory Immunology, DMLI\(ASCP\) from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification \(ASCP BOC\).](#)

Salary

Median annual salary*: 135,000 - 235,000

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