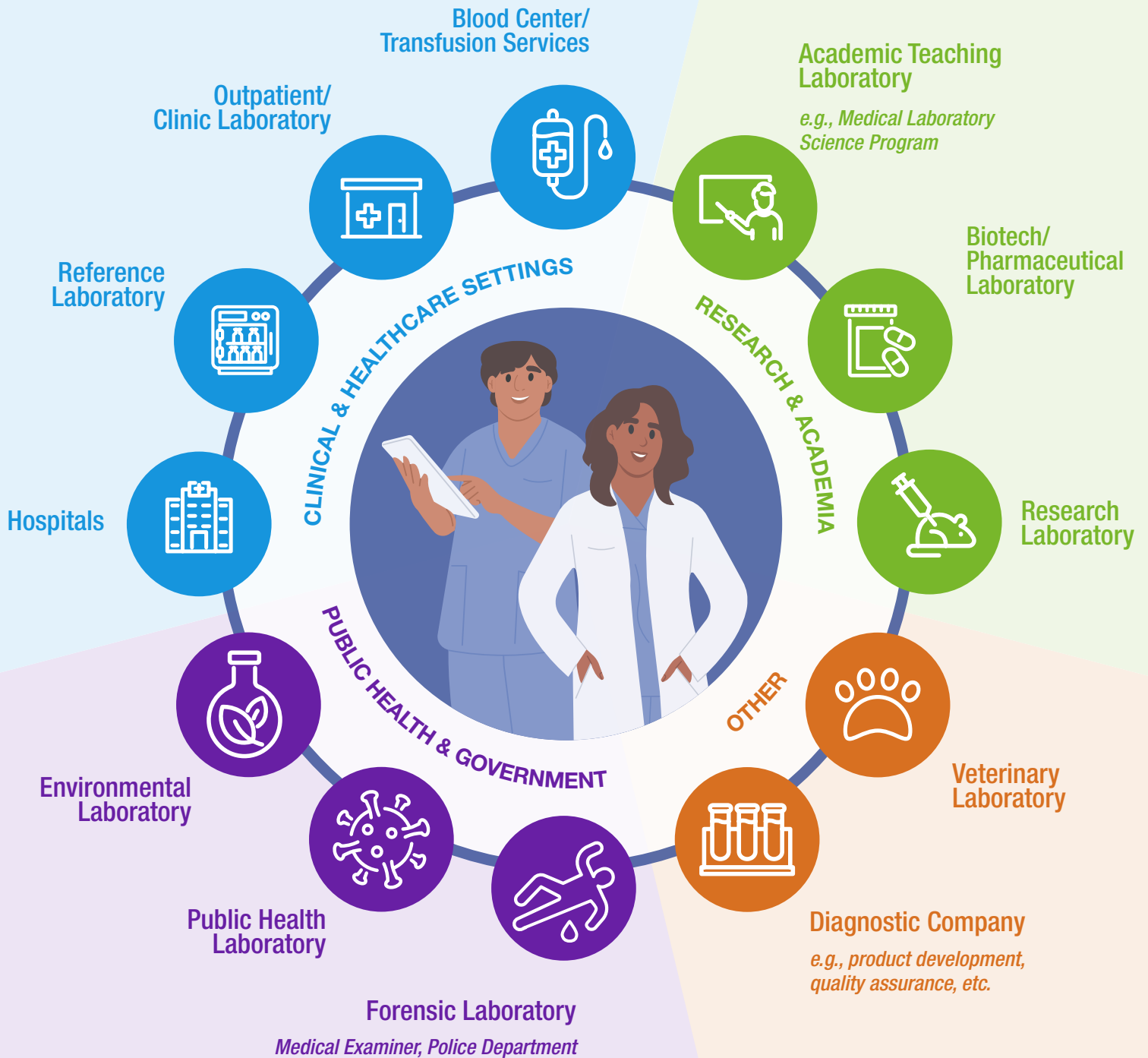


Where do Medical Laboratory Professionals Work?



How do I start or accelerate my career in the laboratory? Roadmap

whatsmynext.org



Where do Medical Laboratory Professionals Work?

CLINICAL & HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

Hospital

Perform a wide range of testing on patient samples (e.g., tissue, blood, urine) to provide data that helps clinicians diagnose, treat, and monitor disease. Laboratory professionals in hospitals are central to delivering results that allow for prompt patient treatment in areas such as the Emergency Department and operating rooms.

Reference Laboratory

Perform specialized or highly complex testing on specimens sent from hospitals, clinics and other laboratories across the country or world, providing advanced testing not typically available in routine hospital settings.

Outpatient/ Clinic Laboratory

Perform routine testing on specimens, often near the patient (point of care), to support diagnosis and ongoing management during outpatient appointments, and assist in preparing samples for testing at the hospital laboratory.

Blood Center/ Transfusion Services

Work with donated blood by testing for blood type and safety, as well as processing and supplying blood products to hospitals for use in treating patients.

PUBLIC HEALTH & GOVERNMENT

Public Health Laboratory

Test and analyze clinical, environmental, and food samples to detect infectious diseases, toxins, and other health threats. This work supports disease surveillance, outbreak response, and data-driven decisions that protect community health.

Forensic Laboratory

Medical Examiner, Police Department

Conduct testing on biological, chemical, and physical evidence to assist in criminal investigations and court cases.

Environmental Laboratory

Analyze air, water, soil, and waste samples to identify chemical, biological, and physical contaminants. This supports environmental protection, regulatory compliance, and the prevention of risks to human health and ecosystems.

RESEARCH & ACADEMIA

Research Laboratory

Design and conduct experiments to generate new scientific knowledge. Analyze data, develop methods, and contribute to discoveries that advance science, medicine, and technology.

Biotech/Pharmaceutical Laboratory

Develop medications and other therapies and perform testing to ensure they are safe and effective for patient use (e.g., clinical trials).

Academic Teaching Laboratory

e.g., Medical Laboratory Science Program

Set up and manage teaching laboratories, and instruct students in laboratory techniques and safety to educate the next generation of professionals (including laboratory professionals!).

OTHER

Diagnostics Company

e.g., product development, quality assurance, etc.

Support quality control and product development by designing, testing, and validating diagnostic assays and instruments to ensure products are accurate, reliable, and meet regulatory and clinical performance standards.

Veterinary Laboratory

Test and analyze samples from animals to diagnose disease, monitor health, and support research and food safety. This helps protect animal populations, public health, and the safety of the food supply.



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