



# LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

*How transitioning service members and veterans can move successfully into a civilian Laboratory Technician job*




Laboratory Technicians collect samples and perform routine laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. They usually work under the general supervision of medical laboratory technologists or laboratory managers.

## QUICK STATS

- Vocational**
- 0 - 5 Years Experience**
- \$15 - \$38/hour**

## POTENTIAL MILITARY TRAINED JOB CANDIDATES

A look at the number of service members serving in military occupations related to civilian Laboratory Technicians in a given year and the number who transition out provides a snapshot of the potential number of candidates who might fill these jobs in Illinois. Innovative education and employment programs that recognize military training and experience can entice military trained applicants to Illinois.

	AIR FORCE  4T0X1 Medical Laboratory	ARMY  68K Medical Laboratory Specialist	NAVY  HM/8506 Medical Laboratory Technician, Advanced	Totals (National)
Service Members				
Serving in the Military as of 9/30/15	1,256	2,621	1,113	4,990
In Occupation who left the Military in FY 2015	162	346	111	619

## MILITARY TRAINING CURRICULA

The Air Force Medical Laboratory Apprentice training program and the Army and Navy Medical Laboratory Technician training program are accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). The training programs, if successfully completed within the last ten years, satisfy part of the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification Medical Laboratory Technician certification eligibility requirements.

## COMPARISON OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY JOB DUTIES

Service members holding military occupations related to civilian Laboratory Technicians perform many of the same job duties as civilian Laboratory Technicians. Many have had years of hands-on experience and can be readily trained in job duties they haven't performed.

94%

94%

94%

Percentage of Civilian Laboratory Technician Job Duties Performed by Military Occupation

CIVILIAN Laboratory Technician Job Duties	AIR FORCE 4T0X1 Medical Laboratory	ARMY 68K Medical Laboratory Specialist	NAVY HM/8506 Medical Laboratory Technician, Advanced
Test biological specimens to gather information about patient conditions	■	■	■
Analyze laboratory specimens to detect abnormalities or other problems	■	■	■
Analyze laboratory findings	■	■	■
Enter patient or treatment data into computers	■	■	■
Operate laboratory equipment to analyze medical samples	■	■	■
Prepare biological specimens for laboratory analysis	■	■	■
Collect biological specimens from patients	■	■	■
Clean medical equipment or facilities	■	■	■
Maintain medical laboratory equipment	■	■	■
Prepare medical supplies or equipment for use	■	■	■
Cultivate micro-organisms for study, testing, or medical preparations	■	■	■
Inform medical professionals regarding patient conditions and care	■	■	■
Conduct research to increase knowledge about medical issues			
Analyze test data or images to inform diagnosis or treatment	■	■	■
Supervise technical medical personnel	■	■	■
Train medical providers	■	■	■

## ABILITY TO MEET ILLINOIS JOB REQUIREMENTS

Military applicants who held one of the three occupations related to civilian Laboratory Technicians have received extensive training in the major disciplines of the clinical laboratory.

Illinois Moderate Complexity Lab Requirement		AIR FORCE 4T0X1 Medical Laboratory	ARMY 68K Medical Laboratory Specialist	NAVY HM/8506 Medical Laboratory Technician, Advanced
Education	High school diploma or equivalent required	Required	Required	Required
Training	Training appropriate for the testing performed prior to analyzing patient specimens	2,144 Hours	1,040 Hours	1,040 Hours
Licensure	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required
Certification	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required

This work is a component of a larger project by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), in collaboration with Solutions for Information Design (SOLID) and with funding from Michael Reese Health Trust. See the Military 101 resource for more detail on military occupations and the Opportunities in Healthcare: Chicago Career Pathways, for more detail on civilian healthcare career pathways.

Visit [Veterans.gov](https://www.veterans.gov) for more resources for veterans interested in pursuing employment/training in the field, healthcare employers interested in learning more about hiring veterans, and other stakeholders supporting veterans.