

Clinical & Public Health Microbiology Career Pathways

Clinical Microbiologists

Investigates microorganisms that cause infectious diseases.

What type of laboratories do clinical microbiologists work in?

- Clinical laboratories serving hospitals.
- Clinical laboratories serving federal (e.g. Veterans Affairs Hospital) and state government.
- Diagnostic reference laboratories.
- Pharmaceutical and diagnostic instrument companies.

Positions

- Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT).
- Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS).
- Medical Laboratory Supervisor or Manager.*
- Medical Microbiology Laboratory Director.*

MLT Job Requirements

- Associate degree.
- Completion of an accredited MLT program.
- Optional: American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) certification.†

MLS Job Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in biology or a health-related science.
- Completion of an accredited MLS program.
- Optional: ASCP certification.†

Public Health Microbiologists

Investigates microorganisms that pose threats to public's health.

What type of laboratories do public health microbiologists work in?

- Local, state or national public health laboratories (e.g. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] and National Institutes of Health [NIH]).
- Newborn and genetic diseases laboratories.
- Environmental and food safety laboratories.

Positions

- Public Health Microbiologist (PHM).
- Public Health Microbiology Supervisor or Manager.*
- Public Health Microbiologist Director.*

PHM Job Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in biology or a health-related science.
- Some states require the completion of at least 6 months training in a clinical or public health laboratory.
- Certification as a clinical laboratory scientist or clinical microbiologist is helpful, but not required for most laboratories.†

WHERE DO I START?

- Find job opportunities in diagnostic laboratories near you! Many have available positions that do not require certification.
- Apply for the [ASM-Weber State University Microbiology Certificate Program](#).
- Find a National Accreditation Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences accredited program.
- Find more information about the field at asm.org/CPHMCareers.

Occupational Outlook

**Number of jobs (2021):
329,200**

Employment of clinical laboratory technologists and technicians is projected to grow **7% (+ 21,800) from 2021 to 2031.**

Source: Bureau of Labor and Statistics (2021)

Starting Salaries

**Clinical microbiology:
\$57,800**

Source: Bureau of Labor and Statistics (2021).†

**Public health microbiology:
\$58,268**

Source: Association of Public Health Laboratories (2022).†

