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.

**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.

### 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.

**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.

**Starting Salaries**

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

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

* *Manager/Supervisor and Director positions in the laboratory may require additional education and training. Please check your local state requirements for additional information.
† The numbers above are nationwide average starting salaries. Salaries can vary significantly by region and salaries can increase with additional degrees and certification.