Laboratory science is the use of clinical laboratory tests to detect, diagnose, monitor and treat disease. Blood, tissue and body fluids can be chemically analyzed and examined for foreign organisms and abnormalities. This information is then used by the medical team to make decisions regarding a patient’s medical care.

A degree in MLS or CLS provides students with specific training in biology and chemistry, including courses in microbiology, immunology, analytical chemistry, biochemistry, and physics. After completion of required coursework and lab requirements a student is eligible for national certifying examination. MLS / CLS degree graduates can work as a researcher in different lab settings such as private labs, forensic research, or hospital settings.

**Forensic Science Technician**

Investigate crimes by collecting and analyzing physical evidence. Many technicians specialize in crime scene investigation or laboratory analysis. Most spend some time writing reports.

**Salary:** $52,840  **Growth:** 6%
Medical Scientist
Conduct research aimed at improving overall human health. They often use clinical trials and other investigative methods to reach their findings.
Salary: $76,980   Growth: 13%

Conservation Scientists and Foresters
Manage overall land quality of forests, parks, rangelands, and other natural resources.
Salary: $59,060   Growth: 3%

Clinical Chemistry
Use chemistry to evaluate patient health. They may evaluate blood, study DNA, examine tissue, or study cells. They may be a research scientist or a developer of diagnostic products.
Salary: $57,580   Growth: 22%

Urinalysis Technician
Examine urine specimens for the presence of biochemical compounds and a variety of formed elements such as red blood cells, white blood cells, and bacteria.
Salary: $46,000   Growth: 3%

Immunohematologist
Also known as a "blood banker" they provide compatible blood components for transfusion including red blood cells, platelets and plasma.
Salary: $49,000   Growth: 13%

Microbiologist
Study microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, algae, fungi, and some types of parasites. They try to understand how these organisms live, grow, and interact with their environments.
Salary: $66,260   Growth: 7%

Note: All job growth statistics refer to the projected percent change in employment from 2012 to 2022. All salaries listed are median job salaries not starting salaries.