

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine



A Career in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

At VA, the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine occupational family includes positions related to clinical and anatomic pathology, including Chemists, Microbiologists, Phlebotomists, Medical Technologists, Medical Laboratory Technicians, Cytotechnologists, Histotechnologists and Histology Technicians. Pathology and Laboratory Medicine professionals provide diagnostic, prognostic and predictive medical laboratory testing. These professionals are dedicated to providing the highest quality health care to our nation's Veterans.

Pathology Technician

This series covers positions that involve technical work that is subordinate to the work of pathologists or other physicians and professional personnel who make final diagnostic examinations of specimens of human tissues and/or cell preparations. Histopathology technicians prepare thin sections of tissue specimens by fixing, clearing, infiltrating, embedding, sectioning, staining and mounting. Cytology technicians prepare, stain and microscopically examine specimens of bodily fluids, secretions and exudations to determine whether cellular structure is normal, atypical or abnormal. These positions require practical knowledge of anatomical laboratory practice techniques in histopathology and/or cytology and of the chemistry, biology and anatomy involved. Positions include:

- Histology Technician

General Health Science

This series covers positions that involve research or other professional and scientific work

that is specifically health-oriented and is of such generalized or miscellaneous, specialized nature that the positions are not classifiable in any of the existing series in this or any other group. These positions require knowledge, skills and techniques gained from professional training in a health science or an allied scientific field. The work requires understanding of scientific methods and techniques common to several recognized professional fields in the health, medical or allied sciences (e.g., health research administration, which requires knowledge of research methodology common to different scientific fields); and/or the work can involve a new, emerging or miscellaneous health science not readily identifiable with established series. This series does not include interdisciplinary professional positions, or the qualification needed to perform that work, that are readily identifiable with existing series. Positions include:

- Cytotechnologist
- Histotechnologist

MyCareer@VA

VA is committed to career development and supports employees' ambitions to grow, learn and advance. Building a career at VA is a partnership, and we are dedicated to providing you the career resources and materials you need to achieve success.

The MyCareer@VA program delivers interactive and engaging career development tools to help you explore and chart your long-term career path within VA.

Medical Technologist

This series covers positions that require professional knowledge and competence in medical technology. Medical technology involves performing, advising on or supervising clinical laboratory testing of human blood, urine, and other bodily fluids or tissues by:

- Using manual or automated techniques
- Confirming test results and developing data that can be used by physicians to determine the presence and extent of disease or in support of medical research
- Modifying or designing laboratory procedures
- Establishing and monitoring quality control systems and measures
- Providing instruction in the basic theory, technical skills and application of laboratory test procedures

Medical technology includes hematology, bacteriology, mycology, virology, parasitology, immunology, serology, immunohematology (blood banking), clinical chemistry (including endocrinology and toxicology) and urinalysis as they relate to clinical laboratory practice. Positions include:

- Medical Technologist

Medical Technician

This series covers positions that involve nonprofessional technical work in clinical (medical) laboratories, such as performing tests and

examinations in chemistry, blood banking, hematology or microbiology. Tests and examinations can be used by physicians to diagnose, care for and treat patients, or in support of medical research. These positions require practical knowledge of medical laboratory practice in one or more areas of clinical laboratory work (e.g., blood banking, chemistry, hematology, microbiology) and of the chemistry, biology and anatomy involved. Positions include:

- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Phlebotomist

Chemistry

This series includes all positions that require full professional education and training in chemistry. This work includes the investigation, analysis and interpretation of the composition, molecular structure, chemical reactions, and physical and chemical properties of substances, the transformations they undergo, and the amounts of matter and energy in these transformations. Positions include:

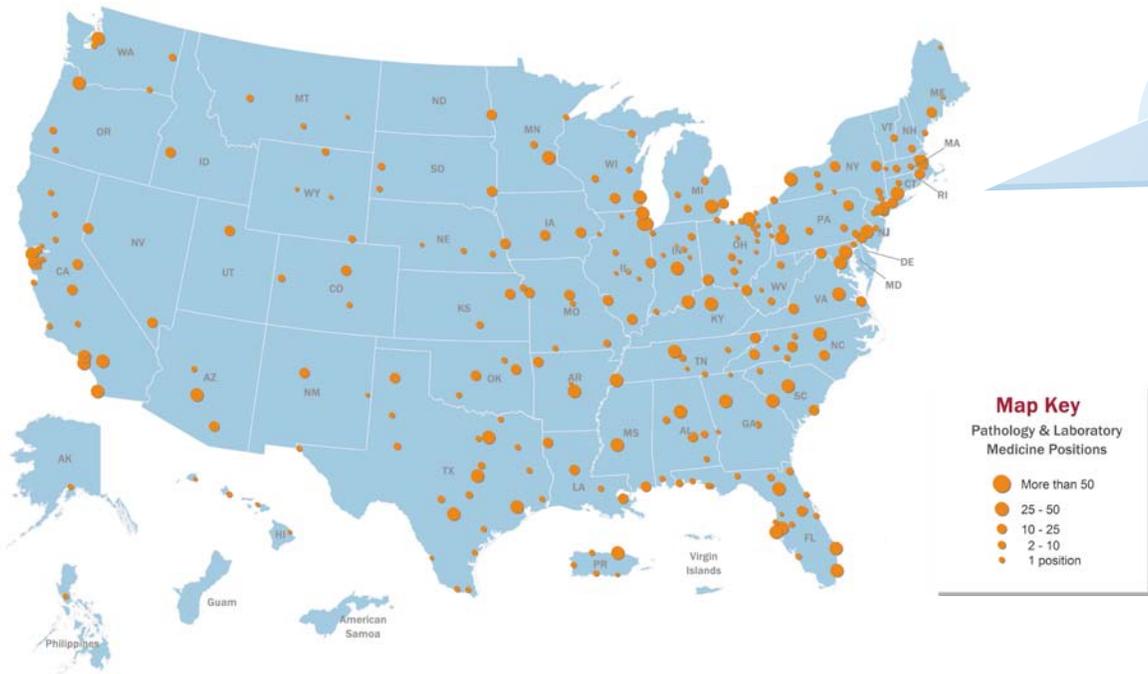
- Chemist

Microbiology

This series covers all positions that involve scientific and professional work in microbiology. Microbiology is the study of the characteristics and life processes of microorganisms, the relationships among microorganisms

and to other living forms, and their reactions to the environment in which they are found. These positions work with the protozoa, bacteria, algae, fungi, viruses, rickettsiae, microscopic parasites, and similar microscopic and submicroscopic forms. They also include immunology, medical parasitology, physiology, serology, genetics, taxonomy and cytology, as they relate to microorganisms. This work involves studies of form, structure, reproductive processes, genetics, taxonomy and cytology, as they relate to microorganisms and the products of their chemical activities; and studies of the distribution of microorganisms in natural and manmade environments (including agricultural and nonagricultural products and food processing establishments). The work also studies microorganisms' roles as pathogenic and immunizing agents, and their isolation, cultivation, identification and systematic classification. It also includes the development of scientific microbiological methods, procedures, and techniques, and the production and use of microorganisms in agricultural, industrial, medical, sanitary and other practical applications. Positions include:

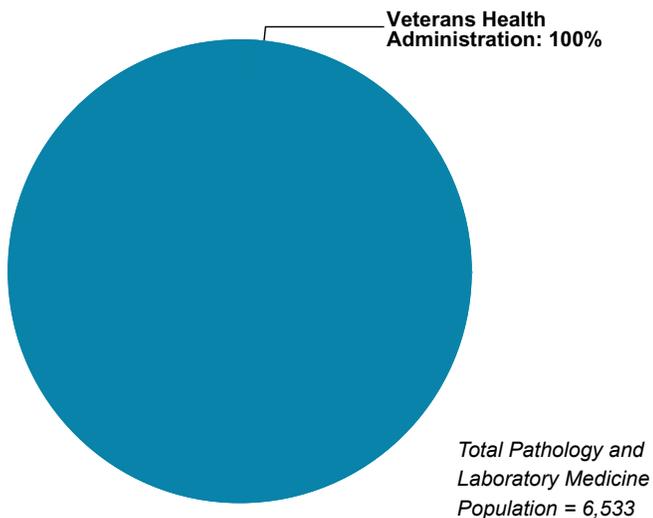
- Microbiologist



Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Job Locations

VA's Pathology and Laboratory Medicine positions are dispersed across 270 cities within the United States. The top five Pathology and Laboratory Medicine occupational family geographic locations are Dallas, Texas; San Antonio, Texas; Houston, Texas; Los Angeles, Calif.; and Tampa, Fla.

VA Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Job Distribution by Administration



VA's Pathology and Laboratory Medicine positions are located in the Veterans Health Administration to meet the broad range of needs facing the Department.

MyCareer@VA Tools and Resources

- Career Planning Process** - Develop professional goals and align developmental experiences to VA career opportunities through a four-phase process: Prepare, Plan, Explore and Develop
- My Career Mapping Tool** - Map your long-term career path at VA by exploring career possibilities that leverage your knowledge, skills and experience across multiple occupational families
- My Career Fit Tool** - Discover your career "fit" at VA by identifying your work interests and work environment preferences
- VA Career Guides** - Explore the knowledge, skills, education and training recommended for each VA job and related career levels

VA employees can also visit the VA Talent Management System (TMS), a state-of-the-art online training and employee development system, to search and register for training courses and learning opportunities.