

## MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

## CAREER PROFILE

$\square$Medical laboratory science is a profession that combines the challenges and rewards of medicine and science. In today's laboratories, more than 5 billion tests are performed yearly. These range from a simple premarital blood test to more complex procedures for detecting such diseases as diabetes, anemia, and cancer. These tests performed in the laboratory also help people stay healthy by monitoring the composition of their blood, urine, body fluids, and tissues, which act as early warning signals for diseases. Medical laboratory science is concerned with the accurate performance of these tests to determine the absence, presence, extent, and causes of diseases.

As a vital member of the health care team, the medical laboratory scientist carefully works to uncover clues to disease in blood and other specimens. They may hold life and death in their hands as the information they provide can influence the type of treatment a patient receives.

In their search for data on a patients' health, medical laboratory scientists do more than examine specimens through a microscope. As medical investigators, they are responsible for the operation of complex electronic equipment, computers, and precision instruments costing millions of dollars.

Medical laboratory scientists may pursue diverse career opportunities. Approximately two-thirds work in hospital laboratories. Others are employed in laboratories in physician's offices, clinics, commercial firms, research facilities, the Armed Forces, the Peace Corps, public health centers, and in veterinary clinics.

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

$\square$ Southern Adventist University offers this bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science—also called medical technology—in conjunction with Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The program
consists of three years of prescribed study at Southern and a three-semester senior year at Andrews-the affiliated medical laboratory science program, which is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).
Southern's program qualifies a student to take the medical laboratory science certification examination offered by the Board of Certification of the American Society for Clinical Pathology. It also meets the requirements of the NAACLS.
Occasionally pre-dental or pre-medical students or graduating seniors in biology or chemistry may wish to become certified medical laboratory scientists. This is possible if the student plans courses to fulfill Southern's requirements and those of the affiliated medical laboratory science program.
During the fall semester of the third year, students must apply to the Andrews University program for Medical Laboratory Sciences through a separate admission process. Acceptance into the program is determined by the program's Admissions Committee.

- To be eligible for admission, a student must complete all of Southern's course requirements prior to beginning the clinical (senior) year.
- The Andrews clinical program does not accept students with less than a 2.50 GPA on a 4.00 system. To have a competitive application, it is recommended that a 3.00 GPA is maintained.
- Although acceptance to Andrews' program is granted during the winter semester of the junior year, the acceptance is conditional, pending satisfactory completion of the stated admission criteria. Should a student's GPA fall below 2.50 or the student fail a winter semester course, the acceptance to Andrews' program will be rescinded.


