Diploma of Laboratory Technology (Pathology Testing)

Gain the skills to become a laboratory technician working in hospitals, research institutes, pharmaceutical companies and private pathology laboratories.

Medical laboratory technicians or assistants conduct routine laboratory tests for pathologists, microbiologists/bacteriologists, biochemists, clinical chemists, pharmacologists or veterinarians.

The Diploma of Laboratory Technology (Pathology Testing) will equip you with the knowledge and skills to work under supervision to:

- examine micro-organisms or changes in cells and tissues
- perform chemical analyses of blood and other body fluids
- assist with research into biochemical or genetic processes.

Note: Programs may change as training packages are updated.

Industry connections
In your second year, you’ll complete a 10-day work placement organised by RMIT.

The placement will take place in laboratories ranging from small research labs to large pathology companies.

Career outlook
There is high demand for technicians in pathology laboratories in public hospitals and large private pathology providers including Healthscope, Dorevitch and Melbourne Pathology.

Professional recognition
Graduates are eligible for membership with the Australian Society for Microbiology and the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists.

Pathways
Graduates with a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 out of 4.0 may be eligible to apply for credit of up to one year into the following programs, if they are successful in gaining a place:

- Bachelor of Biomedical Science
- Bachelor of Science (Biotechnology)
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Laboratory Medicine)
- Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The completion of the Certificate III in Science or the Certificate IV in Tertiary Preparation science stream may provide a pathway into this program (certain criteria must be met).

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c5283
Program structure

Year 1
You'll gain a foundation in chemistry, mathematics, biology, scientific communication, computing, biochemistry and occupational health and safety.

You'll develop general laboratory skills such as microscopy, aseptic techniques, chemistry techniques and the use of laboratory instruments.

In chemistry you'll become skilled at preparing solutions that meet strict quality control standards. You'll also learn to use specialised equipment and how to work safely with potentially dangerous chemicals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core units (mandatory)</th>
<th>Elective units Group A (complete all 12 units)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement and monitor environmentally sustainable work practices (MSAENV472B)</td>
<td>Perform aseptic techniques (MSL973004A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicate with other people (MSL913001A)</td>
<td>Perform histological procedures (MSL973008A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide information to customers (MSL915001A)</td>
<td>Prepare, standardise and use solutions (MSL974001A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Process and interpret data (MSL924001A)</td>
<td>Perform chemical tests and procedures (MSL974003A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyse data and report results (MSL925001A)</td>
<td>Perform biological procedures (MSL974006A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use laboratory application software (MSL924002A)</td>
<td>Perform microbiological tests (MSL975001A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain laboratory/field workplace safety (MSL9440001A)</td>
<td>Perform haematological tests (MSL975002A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan and conduct laboratory/field work (MSL913002A)</td>
<td>Perform chemical pathology tests (MSL975004A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply quality system and continuous improvement processes (MSL934002A)</td>
<td>Recognise healthy body systems (HLTAAP001)</td>
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Year 2
You'll do specialised study in the major diagnostic areas relevant to a pathology lab, including: haematology, microbiology, histology, clinical chemistry and quality assurance.

You'll learn how to undertake blood counts, test levels of chemicals in blood, identify bacteria using a microscope and culture methods and prepare thin slices of tissues to examine microscopically. These tests aid in the diagnosis of all disease types.

Entrance requirements
None

Additional information
Non-Year 12 applicants may submit additional information if they would like it to be considered. For semester 1 intake, this can be completed through the VTAC Personal Statement online.