

Personnel Licensure

By definition, to license is to authorize by a legal permit or to give formal permission from a constituted authority. Licensure is a governmental activity taken on behalf of the public to protect that public from potential harm. Licensure of personnel is often contrasted with certification, which is a private sector activity. A major difference involves the consequences of engaging in practice without each credential. If a license is required to practice a profession in a state, it is unlawful to engage in the work without one and the consequences of doing so are very serious. Not being certified may make it more difficult to get a job, but it is not unlawful to work without it.

There are currently 12 states with laboratory personnel licensure (California, Hawaii, Florida, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Louisiana, Nevada, West Virginia, Montana, Georgia). Puerto Rico also has licensure. The components of the law vary state-to-state, but usually includes an annual licensing fee (some are bi-annual), a provision for continuing education, a minimum education and professional competency requirements.

If a Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) or Clinical Laboratory Technician (CLT) plans to locate in a state with licensure, that state should be contacted for specific information relative to that state's laboratory practice act. This contact should be made as early as possible after the location decision has been made. Most states (except California) require documentation of certification from an acceptable certification agency. Other things to expect are fingerprinting (Louisiana, possibly other states), documentation of certification, and documentation of education, training, and competency. Some states require documentation of a defined number of contact hours prior to issuing a license. California does not recognize any certification or any other state license. Check with other states regarding reciprocity; most give reciprocity for another state license as stringent or more stringent than that state.

Check with the state regarding trainee licenses or other requirements for new graduates without a valid license in that state.

The following is a list of the states with laboratory personnel licensure and contact information:

California

California Department of Health Services
Laboratory Field Services
Personnel Licensing Section
850 Marina Bay Pkwy
Bldg P, 1st floor
Richmond, CA 94804
Phone: 510-620-3834
Fax: 510-620-3697

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/lfs/default.htm>

Must pass state examination; recognizes some national certification exams. However Certification does not equal licensure in California. In addition to passing the approved certification exam and the online quiz regarding California state law, the applicant must meet California education and training standards in order to be eligible for a California state license. The educational and training standards are described in the following link in sections 1261 and 1263. <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=bpc&group=01001-02000&file=1260-1275>

12 contact hours continuing education annually

Fee: \$97 CLS, limited CLS, \$97 renewals including \$10 continuing education fee

Florida

Department of Health
Division of Medical Quality Assurance
Board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel

4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3257
Phone: 850/488-0595
Fax: 850-922-8876
<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa>
National exams recognized
24 contact hours bi-annually
Fee: Initial-CLS/CLT/Supervisor \$100 (application fee and non-refundable) plus initial license
Fee-\$105 (\$205 total); bi-annual renewal CLS/CLT \$136, Supervisor \$160
Includes Cytotechnologists (fees same as CLS/CLT)

Georgia

Georgia Department of Human Resources
Office of Regulatory Services
Diagnostic Services Unit
2 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 33.250
Atlanta, GA 30303-3142
Phone: 404/657-5450
Fax: 404/657-8934

Facility Licensure Only-does require CLS/CLT national certification

Education and experience requirements; does not cover POLs or
state or federal government labs

Hawaii

Hawaii Department of Health
State Laboratory Division
2725 Waimano Home Road
Pearl City, HI 96825
Phone: 808/453-6653
Fax: 808/453-6662
NCA and ASCP BPR certification exams recognized
No continuing education required
Fee: \$10 initial, \$3 renewal
Includes Cytotechnologists

Louisiana

Clinical Laboratory Personnel Committee

Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
PO Box 30250
New Orleans, LA 70190-0250
504-524.6763 ext 261
504-568-6820
National certification exams recognized
\$50 fee for CLS, CLT; \$25 for phlebotomist
12 contact hours continuing education required annually
Includes Cytotechnologists

Montana

Montana Department of Commerce
Board of Clinical Laboratory Science Practitioners
301 South Park Ave. 4th floor
P.O. Box 200513
Helena, MT 59620-0513
Fax: 406-841-2305
Board Office Contact:

Linda Grief, Administrative Services
Phone: (406) 841-2395
E-Mail: dlibsdccls@mt.gov

Mary Hainlin, License Permit Technician
Telephone: (406) 841-2369
E-mail: dlibsdccls@mt.gov

For information on complaints contact:
Cristina Medina, Compliance Specialist
Telephone: (406) 841-2319
E-mail: hclcomp@mt.gov
www.cls.mt.gov

National certification recognized
Fee: \$100 (initial application); \$45 (renewal)
14 contact hours continuing education annually

Nevada

Nevada Bureau of Licensure and Certification
1551 College Parkway #158
Carson City, NV 89710
Phone: 702/687-4475
Fax: 702/687-6588

National certification recognized
10 contact hours continuing education annually
Fee: \$50 initial; \$25 renewal

New York

Kathleen M Doyle, PHD
State Boards for the Professions
89 Washington Ave 2nd floor East Wing
Albany, New York 12234
clinlabd@mail.nysed.gov

Fee: CLS, Cytotechnologist initial License fee (\$175) plus (\$170) registration fee
CLT, initial License fee (\$125) plus (\$120) registration fee

Licensure fee and 1st registration fee due at the same time. License issued for life—licensure fee paid only once and registration fee paid every 3 years.

www.op.nysed.gov/clp-cltlic/htm

North Dakota

North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Microbiology
1205 Ave. A West
P.O. Box 5520
Bismark, ND 58506-5520
Phone: 701-328-5262
Fax: 701-328-5270

National certification recognized
20 contact hours continuing education bi-annually
Fee: CLS-\$70 initial, \$50 renewal; CLT-\$50 initial, \$40 renewal

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Medical Technology Board of Medical Examiners
Call Box 10200
Santurce, PR 00908
Phone: 809/792-6400
Fax: 787/792-6627

www.ctmpr.com; email: ctmpr@ctmpr.com
National certification recognized
36 contact hours continuing education every 3 years
Fee: \$50 every 3 years
Must be a member of the Puerto Rico College of Medical Technologies

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Department of Health
Division of Health Services Regulation
Room 104
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
Phone: 401/222-2827
Fax: 401/222-1272
National certification recognized
30 contact hours bi-annually
Fee: \$62.50 CLS, Cytotechnologist; \$31.25 CLT, Histotechnologist

Tennessee

Lynda England, MT (ASCP)
Administrator
Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board Personnel
1st Floor Cordell Hull Building
425 5th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37247-1010
Office Phone: 615-532-5128
Fax: 615/532-5369
888-310-4650
National Certification recognized
No continuing education requirements
Fee: \$125 CLS, CLT; \$35 for Cytotechnologists

West Virginia

Contact: Marilyn Richards
WV Office of Laboratory Science
Dept. of HHS
167 Eleventh Ave.
South Charleston, WV 25303
304-558-3530
Fax: 304-558-2006
Marilynrichards@wvdhhr.org
National certification recognized
10 Contact hours annually
Fee: \$25 initial fee; \$25 renewal fee annually