



Job Situation

Biology lab. Computer work station. Alone or in a team. Reporting to Head biologist
Flexible hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

40

Overtime

Monthly Salary

\$2,750

Student Loan – Owing

\$12,000

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$160

Duties

Clean and maintain lab equipment.
Replenish supplies. Maintain cultures.
Perform routine observations. Other duties as directed.

Prospects

laboratory Technician or Technologist.

Job Title

Laboratory Assistant

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

3212

Job Description

The Laboratory Assistant is the person who takes care of the biology lab equipment, performs the everyday housekeeping tasks, and assists the technicians, technologists and research scientists. Your work might involve anything from drugs to bugs and working with anything from rats to microscopic single cells. Although you are part of a team and sometimes need to work closely with others, much of your work is solitary.

Cleaning lab equipment is a big part of the job, and in some cases, clean means absolutely sterile. Maintaining equipment and supplies keeps the lab running smoothly. Safety is an important issue with disease or poisonous materials. You may be involved with laboratory animals, although an animal care attendant will have the main responsibility. You will learn emergency protocols, first aid, and the safe disposal of hazardous waste.

Good methodology ensures that research results are reliable. If temperature readings are to be taken you will always take them in the same way and at the same time of day. You do measurements and readings with very precise instruments and record results very carefully. You now understand good methodology as well as immense responsibility that the lab tech has now come to rely on you. More responsibility means the more interesting tasks that you get to do in the lab.

Routine maintenance and observations on experiments can be fascinating. The lab may maintain hundreds of petri dishes of cell cultures that must be fed and kept in special conditions. The assistant may help a technician inoculate the cultures with diseases or medicines and then meticulously observe, measure, and record the results. Good communications skills are required and working in a team gives the assistant an opportunity to learn more science and acquire new skills. This company also encourages employees to continue their education by letting some people start early so they finish in