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Online Degree Programs A Boon For The Clinical Lab Tech!

Clinical lab technicians have become essential members of any medical team whether they operate out of a major health care institution or a successful private practice. These techs test any blood, cell or other samples a physician or nurse practitioner supplies for whatever malady the patient is going through. In many cases they even provide a diagnosis. As of 2008, there were over 300,000 such techs working in the country. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates there's a need for an additional 14% by 2018. This is a growth rate that exceeds the national average for white collar professionals and many will get into this field through an online degree program.

As such, many people with a technological bent would find this a highly attractive career. It also doesn't hurt that with a Bachelors degree, certification and a few years experience, a clinical lab tech can be making over \$50,000 a year plus benefits. On the other hand, there's the matter of coming up with the tuition. Even if one gets the degree through a recognized state or online college, the cost of enrolling and fees is growing faster than the rate of inflation. Even on an experienced technician's salary, it could take a graduate years to pay off the student loans he or she could face. If you need more information about [college degree](#), look on the internet.

What many don't realize is there are more options out there than a Pell Grant and student loans. These are some avenues you might not have thought of:

(1) S-STEM Scholarships - This program was started about a decade ago and has been greatly expanded over the last two presidential administrations. It awards 100 students \$100,000 to \$600,000 a year, depending on need, what they are pursuing and academics. It's designed to help students in their pursuit of science, technological, engineering and mathematic degrees, of which clinical techs certainly fit the bill.

(2) Professional Societies - As it turns out, there are a number of professional societies for the field. One of them, the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Society has uploaded about 25 different grants and scholarships aimed to anyone from high school student to post-grad...and they are just one such society. There is such good information here, it's recommended a bit of time be spent with these resources.

(3) Work Study/Internship Programs - As it happens, this is a very common way for clinical techs to get their education and eventual certification. This kind of employment can come from such major hospitals as the Mayo Clinic to a number of universities. A good way to start is to consult the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Society. This provides great hands-on experience and you could end up being paid to learn. There is an abundance of information about [online degree programs](#) on the web.

(4) Corporate Scholarships - A number of health and technological corporations are a source of financial aid. Among them are Tylenol, who gives out \$250,000 to promising medical professionals and the Siemens Corporation, who donate over \$7 million in STEM-related grants. Do a little homework and you'll find many more.

If there's one piece of advice for a student earning an [online degree](#) it's to do all this research with the aid of a financial aid officer. They can help provide guidance regarding other federal and private financial aid programs to pay getting that [bachelor science degree](#).

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