



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**DELEGATED EXAMINING UNIT**  
Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System  
11301 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90073

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EXAMINING ANNOUNCEMENT: **VA-1-SR-8**  
OPEN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE  
NO WRITTEN TEST REQUIRED  
GS-645-4/5/6/7

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT**  
  
AS A  
  
**MEDICAL TECHNICIAN**  
  
WITH THE  
  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

“America is # 1—Thanks to our Veterans”

**LOCATION OF POSITIONS:** Most of the positions will be at the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and Clinics located in Northern and Southern California and Nevada, and some positions may be located in Hawaii, Samoa and Guam.

**MEDICAL TECHNICIAN OPTIONS**

Chemistry	Microbiology
Hematology	Blood Banking

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** Medical Technicians provide technical support and assistance to professional personnel in clinical laboratory work. They perform such duties as preparing culture media, stains, and test solutions, cleaning and sterilizing glassware, making selected tests and examinations in such areas of work as chemistry, microbiology (bacteriology, mycology, parasitology, and/or serology), hematology, and blood banking, and preparing reports of findings of tests and examinations. Physicians in their clinical diagnoses and in their treatment plans use the reports of findings of tests and examinations. The duties of these positions vary with the specific type of assignment and with the grade of the position.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Total education and experience background gained through employment or volunteer work must clearly demonstrate the ability to perform the duties of the position. Candidates must have had experience (and/or education) as described below:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>GENERAL EXPERIENCE</u>	<u>SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE</u>
GS-4	6 months	6 months
GS-5	-0-	1 year equivalent to GS-4
GS-6	-0-	1 year equivalent to GS-5
GS-7	-0-	1 year equivalent to GS-6

**GENERAL EXPERIENCE:** This is experience which demonstrates the candidates ability to perform the work of the position or experience which provided a familiarity with the subject matter or processes of the broad subject area of the occupation.

**SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE:** This is experience involved in the technical medical laboratory support work such as performing laboratory tests and examinations (chemical, microbiology, hematology and blood banking) and preparing reports of findings. This experience may also have been gained in technical support work in a closely related field (e.g., biological laboratory technician work) which required application of the methods and techniques for the positions to be filled.

**SUBSTITUTION OF EDUCATION FOR EXPERIENCE:****GS-4**

1. Successful completion of an associate degree course of study of which the second year of the 2-year program included successful completion of a training course of approximately a year's duration in a certified laboratory assistant school approved by a nationally recognized accrediting agency.
2. One year of study that included 6 semester hours in chemistry and/or biological sciences plus successful completion of a full-time training course of approximately a year duration in a medical or clinical assistant (or technician) school which included instruction in chemistry, hematology, blood banking and microbiology (including serology) and which, in addition, included supervised laboratory practice incident to the diagnostic process and the treatment of patients.
3. Two years of study which included at least 12 semester hours of chemistry and/or biological science course work which must have been directly related to the specialization of the position.

**GS-5**

Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to bachelor's degree with a major study or at least 24 semester hours in subjects or fields appropriate to the position to be filled.

Completion of appropriate training such as inservice training programs; training acquired while serving in the Armed Forces, and government-sponsored developmental training programs will be allowed credit on a month-for-month basis, generally through the GS-5 level. Such training meets general or specialized experience requirements depending upon its applicability.

Equivalent combinations of successfully completed post-high school education and experience are also qualifying. The combination of education and experience may be qualifying for positions through the GS-5 level.

**BASIS OF RATING:** Candidates will be rated based on an evaluation of the experience, education and training as shown in the application and any other supplementary information which may be submitted.

**TERMS OF ELIGIBILITY:** Candidates will receive employment consideration for 12 months from the date on the eligibility letter. Eligibility may be extended for an additional 12-month period by submitting updated qualifications information after 10 months of eligibility.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** All candidates for Federal employment receive consideration without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, political affiliation, age (with statutory exceptions), or any other non-merit factor.

**HOW TO APPLY:** (Submit the following forms)

It remains the responsibility of the applicant to ensure timely receipt of the application, regardless of the method used for submission. The Veterans Administration assumes no responsibility for the late delivery of applications (i.e., postal service delays, computer system or fax machine is down at the sending or receiving location, etc.)

**APPLICATIONS MAILED IN GOVERNMENT FRANKED ENVELOPES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR EMPLOYMENT CONSIDERATION. FAXES RECEIVED FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

1. Optional Form 306 **plus** Optional Form OF 612 or resume (or any other written format). For resumes the following information must be included. Please give the name and address of your employer(s), give the dates (starting and ending month/year) you were employed, the average number of hours worked per week and describe the duties you performed. Be sure to include all of your experience and related experience, including time spent in the Armed Forces and any other non-paid work experience. You must show the lowest salary or grade level you are willing to accept.
2. **Provide beginning and ending dates of employment and the average number of hours worked per week for each position listed on your application or resume.**
3. **Applicants must provide their Social Security Number in order to have their application package accepted.**
3. A copy of college transcripts if you are qualifying on the basis of education or a Combination of education and experience.
5. If you are applying for Veterans preference, submit a copy of your DD 214. If applying for 10 Point Veterans Preference, submit a copy of your DD 214 along with Standard Form 15 with appropriate proof dated within the last 12 months.

### **(VETERANS PREFERENCE)**

- *During the period December 7, 1941 to July 1, 1955.*
- *For more than 180 consecutive days, any part of which occurred after January 31, 1955, and before October 15, 1976.*
- *Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia from November 20, 1995 to December 20, 1996.*
- *Operation Joint Guard from December 20, 1996 to: (To Be Determined). The Secretary of each military department must decide which members are eligible.*
- *During the Gulf War from August 2, 1990 through January 2, 1992 (who is otherwise eligible and who served on active duty during this period regardless of where the person served or for how long). Otherwise eligible means that the person must have been released from the Service under honorable conditions and must have served a minimum of two years on active duty, or if a Reservist, must have served the full period for which called to active duty.*
- *In a campaign or expedition for which a campaign medal has been authorized, including El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Lebanon, Panama, Somalia, Southwest Asia and Bosnia.*
- *Medal holders and Gulf War veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered on active duty on or after October 14, 1982, must have served continuously for 24 months or the full period called or ordered to active duty. The service requirement does not apply to veterans with*

*compensable service-connected disabilities, or to veterans separated for disability in the line of duty, or for hardship.*

6. If you are currently a Department of Veterans Affairs employee who has received a Reduction in Force (RIF) separation notice or a Certificate of Expected Separation you may be entitled to special priority selection under the Department of Veterans Affairs' Agency Career Transition Assistance Program (ACTAP). To receive this priority consideration you must:
  - A. Be a current Department of Veterans Affairs career or career-conditional (tenure group I or II) competitive service employee who has received a RIF separation notice or a Certificate of Expected Separation (CES) and the date of the RIF separation has not passed and you are still on the rolls of Department of Veterans Affairs. You must submit a copy of the RIF separation notice or CES along with your application upon request.
  - B. Be applying for a position that is at or below the grade level of the position from which you are being separated. The position must not have a greater promotion potential than the position from which you are being separated.
  - C. Have a current (or last) performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent. This must be submitted with your application package.
  - D. Be currently employed by Department of Veterans Affairs in the same commuting area of the position for which you are requesting priority consideration. File your application by the vacancy announcement closing date and meet all the application criteria (e.g., submit all required documentation, etc.).
  - E. File your application by the vacancy announcement closing date and meet all the application criteria (e.g. submit all required documentation, etc.)
  - F. Be rated well qualified for the position. ACTAP candidates attaining an eligibility for this position of 80.0 or above (not including veterans preference points) will be considered "well-qualified."
  
7. If you are a displaced Federal employee you may be entitled to receive special priority selection under the Interagency Career Transition Program (ICTAP). To receive this priority consideration you must:
  - A. Be a displaced Federal employee. The following categories of candidates are considered displaced employees. You must submit a copy of the appropriate documentation such as RIF separation letter, letter from OPM or your agency documenting your priority consideration status with your application package.
    1. Current or former career or career conditional (tenure group I or II) competitive service employee who:
      - a. Received a RIF separation notice, or
      - b. Separated because of compensable injury, whose compensation has been terminated, and whose former agency certifies that it is unable to place; or
      - c. Retired with a disability and whose disability annuity has been or is being terminated.
      - d. Upon receipt of a RIF separation notice retired on the effective date of the RIF and submits a Standard Form 50 that indicates "Retirement in lieu of RIF", or
      - e. Retirement under the discontinued service retirement option; or

- f. Was separated because he/she declined a transfer or function or directed reassignment to another commuting area.
    2. Former Military Reserve or National Guard Technicians who are receiving a special Office of Personnel Management (OPM) disability retirement annuity section 8337(h) or 8456 of the title 5 United States Code; or
  - B. Be applying for a position at or below the grade level of the position from which you have been separated. The position must not have a greater promotion potential than the position from which you were separated.
  - C. Have a current (or last) performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent. This must be submitted with your application package. (This requirement does not apply to candidates who are eligible due to compensable injury or disability retirement).
  - D. Occupy or be displaced from a position in the same local commuting area of the position for which you are requesting priority consideration.
  - E. File your application by the vacancy announcement closing date and meet all the application criteria (e.g., submit all required documentation, etc.).
  - F. Be rated well qualified for the position. To be considered well- qualified you must earn the score cut-off of 80.0 (prior to the assignment of veterans preference points) which distinguishes well-qualified candidates from minimally qualified candidates on the rating criteria developed for the position.
8. Listed below are tasks that are commonly performed by Medical Technicians. Please circle the letter corresponding to those tasks you have performed **on your own** (you may list those tasks on a separate sheet of paper):

### BLOOD BANK:

1. Establishing and maintaining a Quality Control Program.
2. Performing secretor studies.
3. Performing amniotic fluid analysis.
4. Performing enzyme techniques for antibody identification.
5. Analyzing cord blood for disease of the newborn.
6. Performing Quality Control surveillance.
7. Performing transfusion reaction investigations.
8. Performing absorption-elution techniques.
9. Performing identification of irregular antibodies.
10. Performing hemolysin tests for irregular antibodies.
11. Performing isoantibody titer.
12. Performing compatibility testing.
13. Identifying blood group antigen systems such as: M, N, S, O,P, Kell, Dugy, etc.
14. Solving ABO grouping discrepancies.
15. Performing donor bleeding.
16. Performing antibody screening and indirect Coombs' Testing.
17. Performing Rh Phenotype (DCE, c, Du).
18. Performing sub-group A typing.
19. Performing Rho (D) typing.
20. Performing ABO blood grouping and reverse grouping.

21. Performing red blood cell packing.
22. Labeling tubes for test purposes.
23. Checking patient's blood specimen for accuracy of labeling.
24. Releasing cross-matched blood to proper personnel.
25. Stocking blood and blood components.
26. Performing blood bank record keeping.

## CHEMISTRY

1. Programming and monitoring quality control using statistical analysis.
2. Troubleshooting elaborate automated equipment.
3. Performing calculi identification, chemical and/or infrared analysis.
4. Performing radioimmunoassay.
5. Performing competitive protein binding techniques, T3 & T4.
6. Performing porphobilinogen, porphyrin screen using column chromatography, delta-amino levulinic acid.
7. Performing hormone analyses, such as VMA's 5HIAA's 17Keto and Ketogenic Steroids.
8. Operating atomic absorption spectrophotometer.
9. Performing advanced enzymology using the Gilford U.V. spectrophotometer for aldolase and leucine aminopeptidase & CPKK isoenzymes by electrophoresis & ultraviolet.
10. Performing Electrophoresis, hemoglobin.
11. Performing Electrophoresis, serum protein.
12. Using Bechman DB Ultra-Violet for barbiturates.
13. Using Aminco-Bowman spectrophotofluorometer to determine test such as quinidine, cortisol and catecholamines.
14. Testing for abnormal hemoglobin's using Bechman DB scanning spectrophotometer.
15. Performing lipoprotein phenotyping.
16. Operating chromatography equipment.
17. Operating elaborate chemistry analyzers such as SMA 12-60 and SMA 6-60.
18. Performing Conway diffusion techniques for ammonia and alcohol in blood.
19. Making bilirubin and urobilinogen quantitative determinations.
20. Testing for blood osmolality.
21. Testing for blood gases using II, Coring or similar.
22. Testing for CO<sub>2</sub> by titration or manometric method.
23. Making chloride determinations using chloride analyzer.
24. Making Sodium and Potassium determinations using chloride analyzer.
25. Preparing standards & buffers.
26. Preparing absorption and calibration curves.
27. Standardizing and using PH meters.
28. Standardizing spectrophotometers.
29. Preparing molar, normal, and percent solutions.
30. Operating automated chemical analyzers such as Technicon's single & dual channel autoanalyzers, DuPont's ACA, and Hycel.
31. Identifying abnormal formed elements in urine sediment under light microscope.
32. Testing for spinal fluid protein & globulin (Pandy's) with chamber cell count and cell differential.
33. Performing qualitative tests for hemosiderin, melanin & other special abnormal urinary chemical constituents.

34. Reading phenolsulfonphthalein and bromsulphthalein dye tests.
35. Performing manual methods for qualitative chemistries, i.e. sugar, urea, and creatinine, requiring use of a colorimeter-spectrophotometer.
36. Performing confirmatory tests for urinary glucose, protein, bile, ketones, occult blood.
37. Screening urinary sediment for abnormal formed elements.
38. Preparing glassware for use in chemical analysis.
39. Labeling specimen tubes.
40. Preparing containers for collection of 24-hour urine specimens.
41. Processing & preparing specimens for analysis.
42. Preparing simple solutions and reagents for use in chemistry, using written instructions.
43. Performing routine urinalysis including dipstick tests for presence of sugar, protein, bile, ketones, PH occult blood.
44. Determining specific gravity of urine by urinometer or refractometer.

### HEMATOLOGY

1. Establishing and monitoring quality control systems.
2. Performing clotting factor deficiency screen and identification.
3. Using and maintaining Sherwood Coagulizer for multiple coagulation testing.
4. Troubleshooting automated equipment such as Coulter Models "S" and "S Senior".
5. Performing protamine sulfate test.
6. Performing prussian blue iron stain.
7. Performing peroxidase stain.
8. Performing lupus erythematosus cell preparation.
9. Performing Heinz body stains.
10. Performing leukocyte alkaline phosphates stains.
11. Using Sherwood Coagulizer.
12. Performing routine use and maintenance of sophisticated automated cell counters such as Coulter Models "S" and "S Senior" or Technician Hemalog.
13. Testing partial thromboplastin time, manual or fibrometer.
14. Performing Sickledex Test.
15. Recognizing abnormal platelet morphology.
16. Recognizing abnormal cellular morphology.
17. Recognizing abnormal cellular inclusions.
18. Recognizing and classifying abnormal peripheral white blood cells and red blood cells.
19. Operating automated white and red cell counters such as Coulter "FN" and Coulter "ZBI" models.
20. Recognizing abnormal platelet clumping.
21. Estimating platelet count from differential slide.
22. Performing quick prothrombin time test.
23. Performing osmotic fragility test.
24. Assisting with bone marrow slide preparation.
25. Classifying normal peripheral blood cells (RBC's and WBC's).
26. Calculating RBC indices.
27. Testing for bleeding time, Ivy.
28. Testing for eosinophil count.
29. Testing for WBC differentials - normals.
30. Testing for platelet count, manual.

31. Testing for reticulocyte count, manual.
32. Testing for white blood cell count (hemocytometer or manual).
33. Testing for red blood cell count (hemocytometer or manual)
34. Preparing and staining peripheral blood smear.
35. Preparing simple solutions with the aid of written instructions.
36. Testing for Lee-White clotting time.
37. Testing for clot retraction.
38. Performing hemoglobin determinations, manual.
39. Performing sedimentation rate test.
40. Labeling and processing patient specimens.
41. Performing venipuncture.

### MICROBIOLOGY

1. Monitoring inventories.
2. Troubleshooting problems with the ART autoanalyzers.
3. Overseeing the preparation of complex media for microbiology identification.
4. Performing techniques for identification of aberrant fungi, bacteria and yeast's.
5. Establishing and monitoring quality control program.
6. Performing radioimmunoassay, hepatitis-associated antigen and/or antibody tests.
7. Performing fluorescent antibody testing using fluorescent microscope.
8. Performing and interpreting immunoelectrophoresis.
9. Performing and interpreting hemagglutination and inhibition tests.
10. Performing and interpreting counter electrophoresis techniques.
11. Performing and interpreting Ham's test for PNH.
12. Performing complement-fixation techniques.
13. Performing and interpreting susceptibility tests for mycobacterium species.
14. Identification and speculation of nonfermentative bacteria other than enterobacteriaceae, for example, homophiles.
15. Performing antibody assay tests.
16. Performing antibiotic susceptibility-tube dilution test.
17. Performing dilution techniques.
18. Purifying mixed cultures of bacteria, yeast, and fungi.
19. Operating Technician -automated reagin test autoanalyzers.
20. Performing and reading immunodiffusion test.
21. Performing gravindex test for pregnancy.
22. Performing and interpreting heterophila, presumptive and differential.
23. Performing and interpreting ASO titre test.
24. Performing and interpreting special tests to identify mycobacterium species.
25. Performing and interpreting biochemical tests to aid in identification of bacteria, fungi, and yeast.
26. Performing subculture and identification of causative agent in positive blood cultures.
27. Interpreting susceptibility tests.
28. Isolating pathogens and performing susceptibility tests (Kirby-Bauer).
29. Recognizing colonial morphology of pathogenic bacteria and fungi.
30. Performing immunoelectrophoresis.
31. Screening fungus cultures of pathogens.
32. Microscopically screening stool specimens for presence of undigested food and/or parasites.

33. Screening TB cultures for growth of mycobacterium.
34. Testing for febrile agglutinations.
35. Testing for precipitin reactions, i.e., C-reactive protein.
36. Performing routine latex testing -ag, ab reactions, including monospot test.
37. Performing VDRL's for syphilis.
38. Setting up blood cultures.
39. Identifying normal flora in gram-stained slide specimens.
40. Processing feces specimens for microscopic examination.
41. Performing occult blood tests on stool specimens.
42. Processing sputum for examination for presence of TB.
43. Performing Gram's stains and acidfast stains.
44. Inoculating clinical specimens onto appropriate media.
45. Preparing glassware.
46. Preparing media for bacterial and fungal growth.
47. Operating autoclave.
48. Record keeping, numbering and labeling specimens.
49. Processing specimens for microbiology.
50. Processing specimens for serology.

9. Indicate your geographic preference by either circling the number corresponding to the locality where you will accept employment or write the number on the front of your application package:

1. Downtown Los Angeles
2. West Los Angeles/Santa Monica Area
3. Long Beach/San Pedro Area
4. San Fernando Valley Area/Sepulveda
5. San Diego Area
6. Santa Barbara Area
7. Loma Linda/Riverside/San Bernardino Area
8. Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
9. Bakersfield
10. Fresno
11. Los Banos
12. Auburn
13. Reno
14. Eureka
15. Redwood City
16. Rohnert Park
17. San Francisco
18. Santa Rosa
19. Benicia
20. Berkeley
21. Chico
22. Concord
23. Martinez
24. Oakland

25. Pleasant Hill
26. Travis Air force Base in Fairfield
27. Redding
28. Sacramento
29. Vallejo
30. Livermore
31. Menlo Park
32. Hawaii
33. Guam
34. Samoa
35. Modesto
36. Monterey
37. Palo Alto
38. San Jose
39. Santa Cruz
40. Stockton

10. Indicate the hours and type of appointment you will accept by either circling the number corresponding to your availability or write your type of appointment availability on the front of your application package.

1. Full-time employment
2. Part-time employment 25 to 32 hours per week
3. Part-time employment 17 to 24 hours per week
4. Part-time employment 16 or less hours per week
5. Shift work
6. Intermittent
7. Temporary employment lasting 5 to 12 months.
8. Temporary employment lasting 1 to 4 months.
9. Temporary employment lasting less than 1 month.

**WHERE TO OBTAIN FORMS:** A copy of this announcement and the forms required to apply may be obtained from the following address:

DELEGATED EXAMINING UNIT, (05/DEU)  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System  
11301 Wilshire Blvd.  
Bldg. 258, Room 128  
Los Angeles, CA 90073  
(310) 268-4150  
(310) 268-4929 FAX

**WHERE TO FILE:** Submit the completed application forms to the above address. Incomplete forms will delay eligibility. Applications mailed in government franked envelopes or faxes received from federal government agencies **will not be accepted** for employment consideration.

**SALARY INFORMATION:** For information regarding salary, please contact the Delegated Examining Unit.

UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP REQUIRED  
AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER