



First Certifications: 1930 – 1938

The first certification was issued in 1930 to Paul H. Adams. In 1930 registrants were classified into two groups: Laboratory Technician (L.T.) and Medical Technologist (M.T.). An L.T. was given to all technicians who met the minimum requirements without the examination. M.T. was issued to applicants who met rigid requirement of the Board and were individually elected at each annual meeting. As other organizations began using the same designations, the initials (ASCP) were used after the initials L.T. and M.T.

1933

In 1933, all applicants were required to complete both a written and practical examination.

Examinations are:

- 50% Oral/practical
- 25% Written
- 25% Personal/psychological

The first national examination was administered to a total of 66 applicants with a 85% pass rate. The requirement for pre-technical education was increased to one year of college. The Board also issued the first list of Approved Schools. A conference was held with the AMA Council on Medical Education and Hospitals to discuss joint approval of schools for laboratory technicians.

1934

The first separate meeting of the Registry of Technicians (BOR) was held in Cleveland, OH.

1935

In 1935 the Registry of Technicians decided to give the title Medical Technologist (MT) automatically to all those certified as laboratory technicians with a college degree. By 1936, it was decided to discontinue the title of “Laboratory Technician” and all subsequent registrants were designated “Medical Technologists.”

The academic requirements were increased to two years of college. The American Medical Association publishes the first AMA list of “Accredited Schools for Clinical Laboratory Technicians.”

It became apparent that uniformity of grading could not be accomplished by several scattered examiners. Therefore, the first official examiner, Dr. A. W. Freshman, was appointed.

1938

On the 10th anniversary of the Registry, 4,465 technologists had been certified and the Registry of Medical Technologists replaced the Registry of Technicians.

Schools of Medical Technology and the Board of Registry: 1939 – 1948

In 1939 the Registry set up a nation-wide program of seminars planned with state boards of health and medical schools, a program that was interrupted by World War II. The Registry published the first curriculum for schools of medical technology.

1940

In 1940, the Registry authorized an Advisory Committee on Medical Technologist to represent opinions of the registrants. The committee consisted of two members of the American Society of Medical Technologists (ASMT) and three registrants at large to act as consultants to the Board of Registry and sit with the Board at one session of each of its meetings. This established an official basis of cooperation between medical technology and clinical pathology.

The designation, MT(ASCP), with brackets was first used. An important step taken by the Board of Registry in the promotion of continuing education for registrants was the budgeting of an “Education Fund”, designated as a fund for “improvement in the practice of Medical Technology.”

1941

Under increased pressures of wartime need for more medical laboratory personnel, the Registry undertook the national recruitment of medical technologists. As the far-reaching fronts of the war stimulated interest in parasitology, the Registry sponsored a refresher course in parasitology, conducted by Dr. Emma Moss, who later became the ASCP’s 1955-56 president. The registrants were encouraged to use grants from the Education Fund to pay their expenses for this course.

1944

The war had restricted travel so much that it became impossible for the Registry to carry out the practical part of the examination, so this section was eliminated. A study showed that only 2% of those who passed the written examination failed the practical one. In addition, training in the approved schools was eliminating technical incompetence.

1946

In response to the growing membership of ASMT, another medical technologist was added to the Advisory Committee in 1946, bringing MT representation to six, three members from ASMT and three members from the registrants at large. The following year, two MT members of the Advisory Committee were invited to sit on the Registry of Medical Technologists Board at all of its sessions.

1947

The Board of Registry published the first vocational booklet for high school students.

1948

As the Registry gained increasing experience in setting pass points, grading and evaluating examinations, it became apparent that the written “essay type” examination was slow and cumbersome. By 1948, only “true-false” and “multiple-choice” sections were used. The main consideration in the type of examination items was the validity of the results. Because of this change, however, grading could now be done by machine, a very important advantage.

For a number of years, particularly during World War II, there was a continual demand for an assistant laboratory worker, usually described as a “Laboratory Aide”, related to the wartime development of the “Nursing Aide”. For a variety of reasons, the Board was reluctant to develop this credential, but when the other credentials were adopted, Laboratory Aide became a certification as well.

Four new certifications were added: Technologist in Chemistry, C(ASCP); Bacteriologist [changed in 1953 to Technologist in Microbiology, M(ASCP)]; Histologic Technician, HT(ASCP) [now Histotechnician]; and Laboratory Aide (LA).

Machine Grading, Career Recruitment and the First Specialist Examinations: 1949-1962

By 1949, machine analysis of Board of Registry grading began to provide schools of medical technology with detailed statistical information about their programs, the beginning of the Program Performance Report (PPR).

1949

The association between the Board of Registry and the Advisory Committee of Medical Technologists had been so productive that the Board of Registry proposed to the ASCP that three more ASMT members with full voting rights be added to the ASCP Board of Registry.

1953

The Board of Registry introduced the first specialist category of certification: Specialist in Microbiology (SM)

1954

The first examination for Blood Bank Technologists was given by the Board of Registry. This certification, Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB), was of special significance because the preliminary planning for setting up the standards for both training and examination, as well as the responsibility for the organization and approval of school of Blood Banking were the cooperative efforts of the Board of Registry and the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB).

The Specialist in Chemistry (SC) certification was established in 1954 as well.

1956

By 1956, the volume of work for the Board of Registry increased so that it became necessary to hold a second Board meeting each year.

1957

The Cytotechnologist (CT) certification was approved by the Board of Registry.

1958

The joint Armed Forces and Civil Service Committee of the Board of Registry and ASMT made a significant achievement with the re-writing of the classification of medical technologists, putting them at the professional level in the Civil Service and permitting Commission status in the Armed Forces.

1959

A fourth Medical Technologist was added to the ASCP Board of Registry. The Specialist in Cytotechnology (SCT) certification was approved.

1962

A dedicated Board of Registry office building was completed, and the Board moved to new quarters in Muncie, IN. The staff had grown to 34, with Ruth Drummond serving as Registrar for more than 20 years. All medical technologists were required to have at least three years of college education, with suitable science courses for entrance into an acceptable laboratory training program.

The Board also adopted new eligibility requirements for Medical Technologists, allowing candidates who held a baccalaureate degree, including the required science courses, to substitute five years of acceptable medical laboratory experience under proper supervision for formal accredited school training.

The ASCP Commission on Medical Laboratory Personnel (CMLP) coordinated activities of the Board of Registry and the Board of Schools. The Board of Registry was responsible for certification of medical laboratory personnel and the Board of Schools was responsible for the accreditation of medical laboratory schools.