What is it?

Diagnostic Cytology primarily focuses on the microscopic analysis of benign and malignant disease processes of both gynecological and non-gynecological body sites.

Students will also have an understanding of the technical processes required for specimen preparation.
• A CYTOTECHNOLOGIST is a medical laboratory technologist who specializes in detecting and diagnosing cancer at a cellular level.
A cytotechnologist requires precision skills to observe **microscopic changes within cells** to provide a diagnosis. They integrate scientific knowledge, cellular characteristics and clinical history to formulate a cytological diagnosis.

The cytotechnologist must be comfortable with using a compound microscope as this is how she/he must spend a great portion of their day.
Gynecological Specimen Collection

Pap Smears

Collection  Smearing  Fixation
Non-Gynecological Specimen Collection

- Respiratory Tract
- Urinary Tract
- Oral Cavity / Gastrointestinal Tract
- Effusions
- Cerebral Spinal Fluid
- Many other body sites
Specimen Preparation

[Images of laboratory equipment and personnel involved in specimen preparation]
Microscopic Analysis

Cytology
Gynecological Specimens

Squamous Epithelial Cells From the Cervix
Candida Albicans – Yeast Infection
Herpes
Human Papillomavirus - HPV
Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Cervix
Normal Cell

Cancerous Cell
Non-Gynecological Specimens

Melanoma
LUNG CANCER
Breast Cancer
Entrance Requirements

• High School Completion certificate with at least 5 university preparatory courses at the Grade XII level

• Four courses must include English, Math, Biology and Chemistry

• No mark in any of these courses below 70%, with an overall minimum average of 75%.

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