

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Medical Laboratory Science program offers students with a professional attitude a solid foundation in scientific principles and proficiency in the performance of laboratory procedures vital to becoming a professional healthcare provider committed to lifelong learning.

Program Overview

The Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program is an 11-month program, often completed during the senior year of college for 3+1 students that are undergraduate majors in Medical Technology. Applicants with a baccalaureate degree who meet entrance requirements may also be considered as a 4+1 option, and are encouraged to apply. The MLS program begins each July and ends each June. The curriculum is designed to provide the necessary entry level experiences for MLS graduates to work in all areas of the clinical laboratory including Chemistry, Coagulation, Hematology, Blood Bank, Microbiology, and Urinalysis through a combination of clinical rotations and didactic instruction over approximately 48 weeks.

After completion of the MLS program, students will receive a certificate of completion from Reading Hospital and will be eligible to sit for the national board of certification exam (BOC) given by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

Outcome Measures

Graduates of the program are highly marketable, as evident by 100% relevant job placement within six months of graduation and above national average ASCP BOC exam first time pass rates. Most graduates have gained employment in hospital laboratories and private pharmaceutical and reference laboratories.

Accreditation

The program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), 5600 North River Road, Suite 720, Rosemont, Illinois 60018; 773-714-8880.



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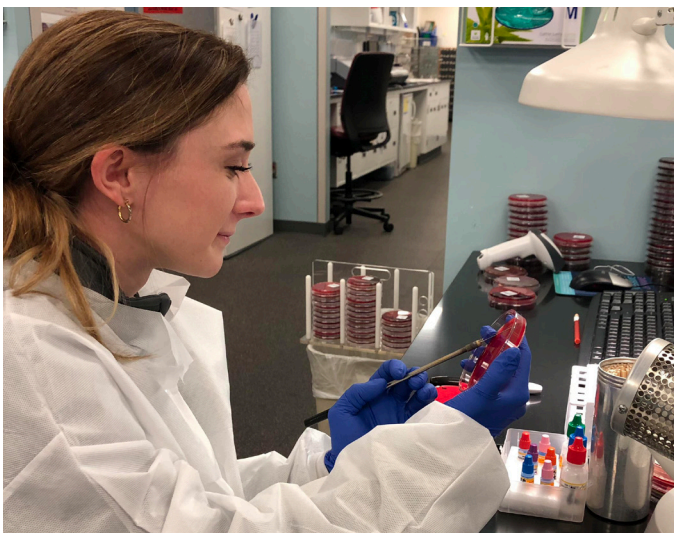


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RHSchoolofHealthSciences.org

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROGRAM FAQ



What is MLS?

Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) professionals are vital healthcare 'detectives' that provide clinical data to physicians to help treat, diagnose, and monitor patient conditions and diseases. Medical Laboratory Scientists perform testing on blood and body fluids to aid in the diagnosis of cancer, heart attacks, diabetes, infectious diseases, and providing compatible blood products for transfusion services. MLS work in various departments of the lab including clinical chemistry, hematology, immunology, microbiology, urinalysis, coagulation, molecular, and immuno-hematology (blood bank). The program prepares students for direct entry level experiences necessary to excel in the workplace with a solid foundation of key scientific principles, laboratory procedures, and practical skills. Medical laboratory scientists are in high demand, so if you are interested, apply today!

I am a high school student, how can I become a MLS and apply?

High school students must go to college and major in medical technology, health sciences, biology, or chemistry. This is necessary to gain the fundamental knowledge required to become a Medical Laboratory Scientist. Students can apply to the MLS program during their junior year and will complete the program during their senior year of college.

I am currently enrolled in college and interested in MLS; how can I apply?

Students may begin the application process during their junior year but must successfully complete three full years in an accredited college or university before the start of

the MLS program. The courses taken during the previous three years must meet the requirements of the college/university so the student will be granted a baccalaureate degree by the college/university upon completion of the MLS program. Students will complete the program to get a certificate of completion and earn their degree from their college/university at the same time.

I have graduated from college and am interested in MLS; how can I apply?

For students who apply within seven years after completing their BA or BS degree, all application criteria would apply. Students who apply seven or more years after receiving a BA or BS degree must update their academic preparation to a grade of "C" or better. It is strongly recommended that the following courses are updated: biochemistry, organic chemistry, immunology, microbiology, anatomy, and physiology.

What clinical experiences are provided while in the MLS program?

Students will engage in formal classroom lectures and will also have extensive hands-on educational experiences in simulated laboratory and clinical laboratory settings. Students get approximately 120 hours of simulated wet lab exercises in the school's laboratory where students can hone their techniques for Chemistry, Hematology, Blood Bank, and Microbiology to prepare students for their clinical rotations. Students get well over a combined 720 hours of direct clinical laboratory experience in Blood Bank, Chemistry, Coagulation, Hematology, Microbiology, and Urinalysis. Students will directly shadow and precept good laboratory practices by established MLS in the field at Reading Hospital. There



is no extra or unexpected traveling between various hospitals for clinical rotation.

Do you offer tours/shadowing experiences to see if MLS is a good fit for me before applying?

Yes. Tours or 4-hour shadowing experiences are available for people interested in becoming MLS but would like to see what the workflow is like. Prospective students interested in shadowing are encouraged to reach out to the MLS program director to schedule a tour or job shadowing experience.

What is the application deadline and is there an application fee?

The deadline to apply is October 20th of the year prior to the enrollment, or start, of the MLS program. There is a \$30 application fee.

What are the admissions requirements?

Students seeking admission into the MLS program must meet the following requirements:

1. Achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.
2. Achieve a combined Biology + Chemistry GPA of 2.5 or higher.
 - 16 credits of biology (Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, Immunology, are pre-requisites)
 - 16 credits of chemistry (Any combination of Chemistry courses like General Chemistry I + II, Organic Chemistry I + II, Biochemistry, Physical Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, etc.)
 - 3 credits of mathematics (Statistics is preferred).
 - Preferred Electives: Genetics, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Parasitology, Histology, Hematology
3. Be a student from one of our affiliated colleges/universities.
4. Complete a face-to-face interview.
5. Submit two letters of reference from academic advisors, professors, supervisors. Graduate applicants may submit references from professional colleagues or managers that can attest to the applicant's potential as a medical laboratory science student.
6. Submit a career statement, which is a one-page, double-spaced essay on "Why you want to be a MLS."

Questions

For more information, please contact Ethan Kentzel, MLS ASCPcm, Program Director, Medical Laboratory Science Program, 484-628-7898 or Ethan.Kentzel@towerhealth.org.