



Department of Health Sciences

*Medical Laboratory
Technology Program*

(Associate of Applied Science Degree)

Career entry description of a Medical Laboratory Technician:

At career entry, the medical laboratory technician will be able to perform routine clinical laboratory tests (such as hematology, clinical chemistry, immunohematology, microbiology, serology/immunology, coagulation, molecular, and other emerging diagnostics) as the primary analyst making specimen oriented decisions on predetermined criteria, including a working knowledge of critical values. Communications skills will extend to frequent interactions with members of the healthcare team, external relations, customer service and patient education. The level of analysis ranges from waived and point of care testing to complex testing encompassing all major areas of the clinical laboratory. The medical laboratory technician will have diverse functions in areas of pre-analytical, analytical, post-analytical processes. The medical laboratory technician will have responsibilities for information processing, training, and quality control monitoring wherever clinical laboratory testing is performed. (As adopted from NAACLS, 2001)

General Information about the Medical Laboratory Technology Program:

The Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) Program at Colorado Mesa University is five semesters in length. Essential Learning and foundation courses are taken the first year. The second year consists of MLT program courses, which are a combination of theory and lab courses, delivered in a blended format. The majority of the course material is delivered online through *Desire to Learn* (D2L), allowing student access to course materials 24/7. Students are required to be on campus for exams and lab experiences on predetermined dates. Students start with introductory concepts in each module (8-week courses) which build a foundation for the next set of courses. Due to the sequential program design, all MLT program courses offered each semester must be taken concurrently and in sequence. A new cohort of students is accepted each Fall semester. Successful completion of the MLT program courses in each module is required for progression in the program; successful completion of a program course is considered a letter grade of "C" or better. After successful completion of the second year, students will perform an applied experience during the Fall semester at an affiliated site in western Colorado. During this time, students are immersed in a hospital laboratory for 40 hours per week for the entire semester.

The student will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree in Medical Laboratory Technology upon successful completion of the program. The graduate is eligible to take the Medical Laboratory Technician Board of Certification (BOC) exam through the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). A passing score on the ASCP exam will allow the student to use the credentials of MLT (ASCP)^{CM} after their name.

Program Accreditation:

The Medical Laboratory Technology program is accredited through the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), which is an independent nonprofit accrediting agency that ensures the quality and integrity of educational programs that prepare professionals to work in the laboratory. For more information:

National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
5600 N. River Rd.
Suite 70
Rosemont, IL 60018-5119
Phone: 773.714.8880
info@naaccls.org

Application Process:

Detailed application instructions and forms are located on the Colorado Mesa University Medical Laboratory Technology [website](#). Priority applications and materials must be submitted by **March 1** from pre-MLT students in good standing with the University*. All prerequisites (BIOL 209/L, BIOL 210/L and CHEM 121/L or CHEM 131/L) require a minimum grade of “C” with an overall GPA of 2.7 for consideration. Students applying to the program must take the ATI TEAS test through the [Testing Center](#) on campus several weeks before the application deadline. Minimum scores of 70 are required for the math and sciences sections and an overall “Proficient” or “Advanced” rating for the exam. All students meeting the minimum testing and academic requirements interviewed in March.

Students wishing to transfer their MLT courses from another NAACLS accredited MLT program will be evaluated on a case by case basis for transfer eligibility. Students wishing to transfer are required to submit syllabi from their previous program to the Program Director for review. Students are directed to CMU’s Admissions office for a complete listing of transfer policies and procedures.

Admission Process:

Students selected for admission into the MLT program are required to comply with regulatory and health and safety requirements. All requirements must be met for the entirety of the program; students will be required to renew those requirements that expire annually prior to the applied experience. The requirements include, but are not solely limited to, a physical examination, immunizations, health insurance, professional liability insurance, drug screening, and a criminal background check.

*Secondary applications submitted by **July 1** are considered for available positions in the program after the March 1st selection process is complete.

The program accepts a maximum of twelve students that begins each Fall semester. Students may be placed in any of the following affiliated clinical sites for the applied experience in the final semester of the program.

Affiliated Clinical Sites:

<i>Community Hospital</i>	<i>Grand Junction</i>
<i>Delta County Memorial Hospital</i>	<i>Delta</i>
<i>Montrose Memorial Hospital</i>	<i>Montrose</i>
<i>St. Mary’s Hospital and Regional Medical Center</i>	<i>Grand Junction</i>
<i>Veterans Administration Medical Center</i>	<i>Grand Junction</i>
<i>Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center</i>	<i>Salida</i>
<i>Gunnison Valley Hospital</i>	<i>Gunnison</i>
<i>Aspen Valley Hospital</i>	<i>Aspen</i>
<i>Colorado Canyons Hospital and Medical Center</i>	<i>Fruita</i>
<i>The Memorial Hospital</i>	<i>Craig</i>
<i>Vail Valley Hospital</i>	<i>Vail</i>
<i>Valley View Hospital</i>	<i>Glenwood Springs</i>

Contact Tracy Matthews, Medical Laboratory Technology Program Director, at tmatthews@coloradomesa.edu to schedule an advising appointment.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the Medical Laboratory Technology Program

Do I have to be accepted at CMU before I can apply for the Medical Laboratory Technology program?

Yes.

Does the Medical Laboratory Technology Program have an admission fee?

No, but the Admissions Department for the University does.

Should I apply before I ask for prior college transcripts to be sent?

You may turn in the application form before you ask other schools to send transcripts. As long as your file is complete before the deadline, we do not care in what order your information arrives. (It is your responsibility to make sure we receive everything needed for your file before the deadline.) Contact the Registrar's Office at 248-1555 to have transfer credits evaluated for possible acceptance at Colorado Mesa University.

Do all application materials have to be in to the Department of Health Sciences office before the application deadline?

Yes, copies of all college transcripts, a transcript evaluation (if you have taken courses from other colleges), and a program application must be received prior to the deadline. A copy of the TEAS Exam results must be sent by the CMU Testing Center to the Department of Health Sciences by the application deadline of March 1 (or July 1 for secondary applications).

What classes can I take to fulfill Essential Learning requirements?

You should refer to the Graduation Requirements for the AAS degree section in the Colorado Mesa University Catalog.

Should I speak with an advisor before I register for Essential Learning courses?

You do not have to speak to an advisor. However, you are strongly encouraged to speak with an advisor prior to registering for Essential Learning courses.

When does the MLT program start?

A new program starts each Fall semester.

Can I be enrolled part time in the MLT Program?

No, coursework is completed only on a full-time basis. Courses offered each semester need to be taken concurrently and in the sequence they are offered.

Do I need to take the MLTP 101 and MLTP102 courses if I am a certified phlebotomist?

Not necessarily, waivers for the courses will be done on a case by case basis depending on your certifying agency, length of your program, experience, continuing education, etc. Generally speaking, if a student has their PBT(ASCP)^{CM}, the courses will be waived toward the MLT degree or if you have attended a structured phlebotomy program with 45 hours of classroom work, 100 hour clinical hours, and 100 successful unaided venipunctures at a CMS approved medical laboratory.

Can I take the phlebotomy courses before I'm accepted into the MLT program?

Yes, the courses are offered each Spring and Fall semester. It is advisable to take the courses prior to applying to the MLT program. The courses are designed to introduce the student to the medical laboratory for a 100 hour applied clinical experience which students find difficult to manage while in the MLT program.

Why do I need the phlebotomy courses for a MLT degree?

The phlebotomy courses are designed to orient the student to the clinical laboratory and to introduce the student to medical laboratory testing and preanalytic errors in laboratory testing.

Do I have to become a certified phlebotomist if I want to get my MLT degree?

No, becoming certified is optional. Some students may want to become certified for employment purposes prior to taking the first Fall MLT courses.

Do the pre-requisite courses need to be completed prior to *applying* to the program?

No. However, the courses must be successfully completed prior to entering the program. Most students have completed or are enrolled in courses prior to applying to the program. If you are accepted into the program and do not successfully complete the pre-requisite course(s), you will be denied entry into the program.

How do you choose candidates?

We look at your grade point average from college courses you have taken, written essay, TEAS V scores, and how many of the required Essential Learning and foundation courses you have completed. All applicants meeting the minimum grade requirements and TEAS V scores are selected for interviews. Candidates are chosen based on the interview.

Do you use a waiting list?

No, we do not. If an applicant is not accepted one year and wishes to be considered for the next year, they must reapply.

Can I work while taking the MLT courses?

Although a student can work during the program, it is not recommended for most students due to the rigorous design of the program.

Are the courses in eight-week modules or semester long courses in the program?

The program utilizes both module and semester length courses in the program. Many of the MLT program courses are rigorous science courses, which are difficult for students to learn all at the same time during a semester. All of those courses and the corresponding labs have been placed into modules so a student is only learning two disciplines at a time.

Do I have labs every week?

No, labs are predetermined for the semester at least a month before the semester begins and on selected days. Each lab course during a module has five lab sessions that are five hours in length, generally held

on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Some labs are split between two days to accommodate contemporary lab methods.

Do I need my own computer and printer?

Many of the MLT courses are delivered online through Brightspace (Desire to Learn). Having your own computer allows you the freedom to complete assignments on your schedule. Computer labs are available on campus for student use. Some documents will be posted online for you to print and bring to class; students can print documents at any campus computer lab if they do not own their own printer.

How much are tuition and fees for the MLT program at CMU?

Please go to www.coloradomesa.edu for the most current tuition and fees.

Are there other requirements and costs associated with the MLT program after I've been accepted?

Yes, below is a list of requirements and associated costs that need to be submitted to the Medical Laboratory Technology Program Administrative Assistant at least 2 weeks prior to the first day of classes. Students accepted into the program are given instructions for completing these requirements. Students that fail to meet the requirements will not be allowed to enroll in the program.

Due	Item	Approx. cost
Upon acceptance into the program	myClinicalExchange subscription	\$40.00
Before program starts and annually thereafter	Criminal Background Investigation	\$65.00
Before program starts and annually thereafter	Professional Liability Insurance	\$40.00
Before program starts and annually thereafter	Health Insurance	variable
Before program starts and annually thereafter	Health Assessment and Immunizations	variable
Prior to applied experience, third semester	Drug Screen	\$40.00