



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 diagnostics, and other emerging diagnostics) as the primary analyst making specimen-oriented decisions based on predetermined criteria, including a working knowledge of critical values. Communication skills 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 has diverse responsibilities across pre-analytical, analytical, and post-analytical processes, including 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 during the first year. The second year consists of MLT program courses — a combination of theory and lab coursework delivered in a blended format. Most course material is delivered online through D2L Brightspace, giving students access to course materials 24/7. Students are required to be on campus for exams and lab experiences on predetermined dates.

Coursework begins with introductory concepts in each module (8-week courses), which build a foundation for the next set of courses. Due to the program's sequential 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 every MLT program course — defined as a letter grade of “C” or better — is required to progress in the program. After successfully completing the second year, students complete an applied experience during the Fall semester at an affiliated site in western Colorado, where they are immersed in a hospital laboratory for 40 hours per week for the entire semester.

Students receive an Associate of Applied Science degree in Medical Laboratory Technology upon successful completion of the program. Graduates are eligible to take the Medical Laboratory Technician Board of Certification (BOC) exam through the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). A passing score allows graduates to use the credentials MLT(ASCP)^{cm} after their name.

Program Accreditation

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

National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
5600 N. River Rd., Suite 720
Rosemont, IL 60018-5119
Phone: 773.714.8880
Email: info@naacls.org

Application Process

Detailed application instructions and forms are available on the Colorado Mesa University Medical Laboratory Technology website (coloradomesa.edu/health-sciences/degrees/medical-laboratory-technology.html).

Priority applications and ATI TEAS exam scores must be submitted by **March 1** by students in good standing with the University. All prerequisite courses (BIOL 209/L, BIOL 210/L, and CHEM 121/L or CHEM 131/L) require a minimum grade of “C,” along with an overall GPA of 2.7, for consideration. Applicants must take the ATI TEAS test through the Testing Center on campus several weeks before the application deadline. Minimum scores of 70 are required on the math and science sections, along with an overall rating of “Proficient” or above. All applicants meeting the minimum testing and academic requirements are interviewed in March.*

Students wishing to transfer MLT coursework from another NAACLS-accredited MLT program are evaluated on a case-by-case basis for transfer eligibility and must submit syllabi from their previous program to the Program Director for review. Students should also contact CMU's Admissions Office for a complete listing of transfer policies and procedures.

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

Admission Process

Students are conditionally accepted after the interview process, pending completion of any outstanding prerequisite courses and contingent upon meeting all clinical site requirements before beginning the final clinical semester. These requirements include, but are not limited to, a criminal background check, drug screening, a physical examination, immunizations, health insurance, and professional liability insurance. Students selected for admission are notified shortly after the interview. The program accepts a maximum of twelve students each Fall semester. Students may be placed at any of the following affiliated clinical sites for the applied experience in the final semester of the program.

Affiliated Clinical Sites

- Community Hospital, Grand Junction
- Delta County Memorial Hospital, Delta
- Montrose Memorial Hospital, Montrose
- St. Mary's Hospital/Intermountain, Grand Junction
- Veterans Administration Medical Center, Grand Junction
- Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center, Salida
- Gunnison Valley Hospital, Gunnison
- Aspen Valley Hospital, Aspen
- Family Health West, Fruita
- The Memorial Hospital, Craig
- Vail Valley Hospital, Vail
- Valley View Hospital, Glenwood Springs

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

Frequently Asked Questions about the Medical Laboratory Technology Program

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

Yes.

Does the Medical Laboratory Technology Program have an admission fee?

No, but the Admissions Department for the University may have one.

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

You may submit the application form before asking other schools to send transcripts. As long as your file is complete before the deadline, the order in which your information arrives does not matter. (It is your responsibility to make sure we receive everything needed for your file before the deadline.) Contact the Registrar's Office at (970) 248-1555 to have transfer credits evaluated for possible acceptance at Colorado Mesa University.

Do all application materials need to be submitted to the Department of Health Sciences office before the application deadline?

Yes, a program application must be received prior to the deadline. A copy of the TEAS Exam results must also 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).

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 must be taken concurrently and in the sequence in which they are offered.

Do the prerequisite 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 are enrolled in these courses when applying. If you are accepted into the program but do not successfully complete the prerequisite course(s), you will be denied entry into the program. Prerequisite courses are MATH 113, BIOL 209, BIOL 209L, BIOL 210, BIOL 210L, CHEM 121 or CHEM 131, and CHEM 121L or CHEM 131L.

How do you choose candidates?

We consider college GPA, a written essay, TEAS scores, and how many of the required Essential Learning and foundation courses you have completed. All applicants meeting the minimum grade requirements and TEAS scores are selected for interviews, and candidates are chosen based on the interview.

Do you use a waiting list?

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

Can I work while taking the MLT courses?

Although students can work during the program, it is not recommended for most, due to the program's accelerated design.

Are the program courses offered as eight-week modules or semester-length courses?

The program uses both module- and semester-length courses. Many MLT program courses are rigorous science courses that would be difficult for students to learn all at once within a single semester.

Do I have labs every week?

No. Lab sessions are scheduled for the semester at least a month before it begins, on selected days. Each lab course within a module has five lab sessions, 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 MLT courses are delivered online through D2L Brightspace. Having your own computer gives you the freedom to complete assignments on your own schedule. Computer labs are also available on campus. Some documents are posted online for you to print and bring to class; students without a personal printer can print at any campus computer lab.

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

Please visit <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/student-accounts/expenses.html> for the most current tuition and fees.

Are there other requirements and costs associated with the MLT program after I've been accepted, not counting tuition, lab fees, and books?

Yes. After acceptance into the program, students are billed for a name tag used during campus lab sessions and the final clinical semester. Students are also required to purchase white scrubs for campus lab sessions and the clinical semester, and to provide proof of Hepatitis B immunization (either vaccination records or a positive Hepatitis B Surface Antibody titer) at the start of the program.

Additionally, during the summer before the final semester, students must meet several clinical site health and safety requirements, summarized below.

Item	Approx. Cost
Disa Health /Complio Account (includes background check, drug screen, and required e-learning modules)	\$138.00
myClinicalExchange (mCE) 6-month account	\$20.00
Professional Liability Insurance	\$40.00
Health Assessment, TB Tests, and Immunizations	Variable