MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

Medical laboratory sciences, also known as clinical laboratory sciences, is the allied health profession that directly impacts quality patient care. Using cutting-edge technologies, medical laboratory scientists (MLS) analyze blood and other body fluids to help identify, treat, and prevent hundreds of diseases and conditions—from thyroid problems to diabetes, from leukemia to hepatitis. Although most entry-level MLS practitioners are employed in hospital laboratories, others obtain positions in areas such as: reference laboratories, veterinary laboratories, public health laboratories, as well as in facilities that perform paternity testing or evaluation of compatibility for transplant patients. Their skill set, emphasis on accuracy and precision in performing testing and knowledge of method development and validation are readily transferable. This is one reason MLS graduates are also employed in biomedical/biotechnology industry and research laboratories.

The Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) programs include:

- Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences (BS in MLS)
- Master of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences (MS in MLS)

Medical Laboratory Technicians (MLT) who have completed a MLT program accredited by NAACLS, have earned an associate’s degree, and who are certified as a MLT by the Board of Certification (https://www.ascp.org/content/board-of-certification) (BOC) of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) can be accepted into the Bachelor of Science degree program at the Health Science Center as an “Advanced Standing” MLS student. Core curriculum and all required science and math courses must be completed before advancing to the second year of the BS in MLS. Some coursework may be offered via distance learning.

The Medical Laboratory Sciences programs (BS in MLS and MS in MLS) are accredited by The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), 5600 N. River Road, Suite 720, Rosemont, IL 60018-5119; (773) 714-8880; e-mail info@naacls.org. Web site: https://naacls.org. Graduates of the MLS programs are eligible to take the national certification examination for Medical Laboratory Scientist, MLS(ASCP) given by the Board of Certification (https://www.ascp.org/content/board-of-certification) (BOC) of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), 33 West Monroe St., Suite 1600, Chicago, IL, 60603, 1-800-267-2727.

Graduates of the MLS programs may find employment opportunities in hospital laboratories as well as private, reference, research, industrial, biotechnology, veterinary, public health, forensic, and pharmaceutical laboratories. With advanced education and experience, graduates have additional career options, including research and development, teaching, and management.