

Medical Laboratory Science Admissions/Enrollment

2027-2028 Academic Year

Technical Standards

To be successful in the Medical Laboratory Science Program, applicants and current students must meet the following technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

Physical and Motor Skills

Students must:

- Be able to collect patient samples, use a microscope, operate and repair laboratory equipment
- Be able to process samples, physical mobility to collect blood specimens from patients, and stamina to tolerate a physically demanding workload
- Be able to stand for long periods of time and maneuver through crowded spaces to collect specimens

Sensory/Observational Skills

Students must:

- Be able to participate in lab and clinical practical demonstrations
- Have visual acuity sufficient to use microscopes to perform analysis requiring distinguishing structural details and staining characteristics of cells and microorganisms
- Be able to view computer screens for extended lengths of time
- Be able to visually identify reactions on slides, test tubes, microwells, and probe colors on slides

Communication Skills

Students must:

- Be able to communicate in English, both verbally and in writing to all staff, employees, students, patients and other healthcare workers
- Be able to complete written assignments and participate in classroom discussions

Intellectual and Qualitative Skills

Students must:

- Have the ability to calculate, measure, interpret and evaluate laboratory data and other research materials
- Have the ability to organize their work, solve problems, think critically, and make appropriate judgments

Professionalism and Social Behavior Skills

Students must:

- Have the ability to follow directions, manage time, and meet deadlines
- Be able to function as part of a team and act as a professional
- Have the ability to work under pressure, maintaining a calm demeanor and demonstrating maturity
- Be able to adhere to the regulations of accrediting agencies, comply with safety regulations of the laboratory and maintain a safe environment for themselves and others
- Be able to act as a professional by wearing appropriate dress, using proper behavior and maintaining personal honesty and integrity

Pathways to Medical Laboratory Science:

- 3 + 1 program
- 4 + 1 program

Requirements

To be eligible for enrollment in the Medical Laboratory Science Program, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Be enrolled as a Medical Laboratory Science student at an affiliated institution participating in a formal 3+1 agreement with the program. Applicants who are not enrolled at an affiliated institution must hold a bachelor's degree in a biological, chemical, or physical science, or in medical/clinical laboratory science or medical technology, prior to the first day of the clinical year. Note: 3+1 students from non-affiliated schools are not eligible for enrollment. **A complete list of affiliated institutions is provided below.**
2. Complete a minimum of 90 semester hours (135 quarter hours) of academic credit toward a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.

3. Complete or be in progress with the following prerequisite coursework, meeting minimum credit and GPA requirements:
 - o **Chemistry:** A minimum of 16 semester hours (24 quarter hours) applicable toward a chemistry major, including organic chemistry or biochemistry (biochemistry strongly recommended), with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.
 - o **Biological Sciences:** A minimum of 16 semester hours (24 quarter hours) applicable toward a biology major, including microbiology and immunology (genetics and anatomy and physiology strongly recommended), with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.
 - o **Mathematics:** One college-level mathematics course (remedial coursework does not satisfy this requirement; statistics strongly recommended), with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.
4. Demonstrate attributes associated with success in the profession, including leadership potential, meaningful participation in team-based activities (such as extracurricular, volunteer, or work experiences), prior healthcare exposure, and a clearly articulated interest in the field of medical laboratory science.

Any deviations from the 90 credit minimum will be evaluated and approved on a case-by-case-basis by SOHP and the MLS Program Director.

Conditional Admittance

Applicants who meet the above requirements may be offered conditional admittance if remaining requirements will be satisfied prior to the start of the program. Under conditional admittance, applicants must:

1. Successfully complete all required pre-clinical coursework and be eligible for a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical science, biological science, or medical laboratory science prior to the first day of the clinical year.
2. Submit an updated official transcript documenting completion of all required coursework and degree eligibility prior to the program start date.

Admission Documents and Requirements

An applicant is required to complete the following items after submitting their initial application in Campus Cafe in order for their application to be considered. Please note that documents marked with an asterisk (*) are **not** considered during the evaluation of applications and will **not** affect an applicant's eligibility or admission decision. They are required, however, for administrative purposes. To begin, please select 'Summer 20XX' in the 'Anticipated Starting Semester' field of the application.

1. Submit your non-refundable \$20.00 application fee payment in [Momentum](#) and upload a copy of your payment confirmation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.*
2. Complete the Medical Laboratory Science Supplemental Application and upload the completed supplemental application form to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe (Supplemental application found on the Admissions webpage).
3. Complete the [Applicant Demographic Survey](#) and upload a copy of your survey completion confirmation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.*
4. Complete a transcript evaluation form and upload the completed form to your applicant portal in Campus café (Transcript evaluation form found on the Admissions webpage).
5. If the applicant's native language is not English, official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the Duolingo English Test (DET) are required. Applicants must meet one of the following minimum score requirements:
 1. **TOEFL (Original Scoring):**
Minimum overall score of 75, with writing and speaking scores of at least 17 each, or
 2. **TOEFL (New Scoring):**
Minimum overall score of 3.5, with a writing score of at least 4 and a speaking score of at least 3, or
 3. **Duolingo English Test (DET):**
Minimum overall score of 105
 - If applicable, complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or Duolingo English Test (DET) and upload a copy of your results to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
 - The English Proficiency exam cannot be waived based on prior learning or work experience. This policy ensures that all students meet the same standardized language requirements, which supports academic success and helps maintain fairness and consistency in the admissions process.
6. Upload a copy of your resume or curriculum vitae to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
7. Request official academic transcripts. You are required to submit official transcripts from every school you have attended. All foreign transcripts must be

evaluated by World Education Services (WES) on a course-by-course basis. If applicable, upload a copy of your WES transcript evaluation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe. High school transcripts are not required. Once received, the transcripts will be uploaded to your applicant portal by program administration.

You can submit your official transcripts through one of two methods:

1. Electronically (preferred):

Request delivery to MLSProgram@ccf.org

2. By mail (all paper transcripts must be submitted in an official sealed envelope):

Cleveland Clinic
Medical Laboratory Science Program
Attention: Barbara Zingale
9500 Euclid Avenue/L13
Cleveland, OH 44195

Please note, letters of recommendation are not required and **will not** be evaluated.

Enrollment Documents and Requirements

If an applicant is accepted into the program the following items are required in order to enroll in the program. Please review the [health requirements](#) before submitting your documentation.

1. Complete and sign an Enrollment Agreement in Campus Cafe via DocuSign.
2. Complete the [Student IPEDS Survey](#) and upload a copy of your survey completion confirmation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
3. Upload your negative tuberculosis (TB) test documentation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe. The TB test must be completed within six months prior to the start of the program.
4. Upload your immunization documentation for chicken pox (varicella) or positive titer to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
5. Upload your immunization documentation for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
6. Upload your positive hepatitis B vaccination/titer or completed waiver to your applicant portal in Campus Café (Hepatitis B vaccination/titer waiver found on the Admissions webpage).

7. Upload your tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) booster documentation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe. The booster is required within the past 10 years.
8. Influenza immunization documentation is required during flu season (November 1 through March 31). The applicant is required to upload documentation to the applicant portal in Campus Cafe if completing their application during flu season or will be required to obtain and submit documentation when the vaccination becomes available.
9. Complete the required onboarding tasks in SilkRoad. Onboarding will include a background check. Additional information will be provided following completion of the above items.

Applicants should also be aware of the following:

- All prerequisite coursework must be taken within seven years of the class enrollment date.
- If accepted contingent upon successful completion of prerequisite coursework, submit your official transcript showing completion of all prerequisites before the first day of the program. See “Requirements” section for more information.

Selection Process

When all the items listed above have been submitted, the applicant’s academic qualifications are evaluated.

Applicants meeting the minimum criteria *may* be contacted to make an appointment for a personal interview. Please note that meeting the minimum criteria does not guarantee an interview.

Given the competitive nature of the program, applicants with GPAs of less than 2.8 may not be selected for an interview.

Admissions interviews are conducted in-person at Cleveland Clinic’s main campus. A candidate may request a virtual interview based on geographic distance or as reasonable accommodation for a disability.

The timeliness of an application will be considered in evaluating the applicant. Applications received before July 1 will receive the highest consideration, those received by September 1 will be given secondary consideration. Those received after December 1 will be considered untimely.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to see that the deadline for submitting applications and other application materials is met.

After the interview, each applicant who has completed the process will be scored on non-academic characteristics, using information gathered from the application form and interview.

The relative weights given to each source of information are:

- Academic criteria: 60% of total score
- Non-academic criteria
 - Application form: 15% of total score
 - Interview: 25% of total score

Acceptable applicants will be ranked and selected in order of their total scores.

Upon completion of the interview process, each applicant will be evaluated on a range of academic and non-academic attributes, based on information obtained from both the application materials collected and the interview. These attributes being evaluated include demonstrated leadership potential, meaningful involvement in team settings, such as research, volunteer work settings, previous healthcare experience, and a clearly expressed interest in the field of medical laboratory science.

The program guarantees placement for all students who have paid the \$300 deposit fee after having been accepted into the program. The deposit is used to pay for the ASCP certification examination taken by all graduates.

Preference will be given to applicants who are in Medical Technology/Medical Laboratory Science programs at affiliated institutions if all other qualifications are equal.

Additional Occupational Health Testing Upon Enrollment

Students must complete the color discrimination test and the respirator fit test through the Cleveland Clinic's Occupational Health department located in H18. These tests are performed after the first day of class within the first month of the program.

Color Discrimination Testing

The Cytology Program requires a color blindness determination for each student enrolled in the program. It is possible to be a cytologist and be colorblind since cytologic diagnosis is done by morphology, but color is often used to describe certain cell types

and changes in cells. It is imperative that the program be aware of any student who is colorblind so that the faculty can make changes in how cells are described to emphasize the morphology over any colors seen. No student will be eliminated from the program based solely on color blindness.

Students enrolled in the program who are colorblind will be afforded extra microscopic sessions to help overcome any difficulties they may have with microscopic diagnosis. It is the responsibility of the student to request this additional help. Students who are colorblind are required to achieve passing scores on all visual tests and have acceptable screening scores in order to complete the program

UroVysion testing uses various colored fluorescent tags on probes that must be assessed microscopically. Students who are colorblind will be unable to perform this test and will be offered an alternative classroom experience during that portion of the course.

Students enrolled in the program will need to have Occupational Health assess the colorblindness test.

Occupational Health is located in H18. The test will need to be completed with a printed form for documentation submitted to the Program Director by end of the first month of classes.

Respirator Fit Testing

The Cytology Program requires respirator fit testing due to the students' involvement with rapid on-site evaluation (ROSE) of fine needle aspiration specimens. The clinical rotations including EBUS, EUS/Radiology and FNA may require droplet precautions to be followed, and students must be aware of the correct usage of a respirator.

Students enrolled in the program will need to have a respirator fit test in Occupational Health in H18 and receive documentation of their testing to give to the Program Director. The documentation will be kept in the students' file.