MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

Medical laboratory scientists are vital members of the health care team who contribute data critical to deliver quality patient care. They perform and assure the reliability of tests to provide objective information used in early detection, diagnosis, monitoring and effective treatment of disease. Up to 80 percent of all clinical decisions are impacted by clinical laboratory testing. The knowledge and skills required of these professionals are diverse, involving both scientific detective work and managerial competence.

WHAT IS A MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST?
In a typical laboratory setting, the medical laboratory scientist performs a full range of laboratory tests from blood smears for the detection of anemia to highly complex procedures used to diagnose and monitor the status of patients suffering from various forms of cancer.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale average in high school chemistry, biology, mathematics and English.
- Four years of mathematics (with algebra) and English.
- Physics is recommended.
- Minimum ACT score of 20 in each subsection or an SAT score of 500 or above in each area.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Students in the Department of Biomedical Laboratory Science have numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth through professional interactions. In the area of career development, local clinical affiliates are frequently interested in placing medical laboratory science students in lab assistant positions during their undergraduate experience. For students interested in getting involved, the Student Association of Medical Diagnostics plans and provides social and service opportunities. The Department encourages and facilitates student attendance at laboratory professional conferences and opportunities to present their research findings.

WHY CHOOSE SLU

- As one of the first MLS degree programs in the United States, you will benefit from more than 85 years of continuous accreditation and excellence in medical laboratory science education.
- Undergraduate opportunities to conduct research and produce projects and papers acceptable for publication and presentation at professional conferences.
- Opportunities to participate in professional conferences with SLU MLS faculty and fellow students.
- State-of-the-art MLS laboratories.
- Pre-professional health curricular options are available to prepare graduates for health professional schools to include: medicine, physician assistant, dental, veterinary, pharmacy, etc.
- Low student to faculty ratio.
- Diversity of and guaranteed placement in clinical practicum training sites.
- Pass rates consistently above the national average on the professional certification exams.
- Certification exam pass rate over the past five years is 95 percent.
- Job placement rate typically between 95-100 percent.
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
While most medical laboratory science graduates work in a clinical laboratory in the areas of diagnostic testing and laboratory management, some choose positions in:
- Research
- Forensic science and crime laboratories
- Laboratory equipment companies
- Pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries
Other graduates choose to go directly to graduate, medical or professional schools.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES
As a medical laboratory scientist, you would be qualified to work in five major areas of the laboratory:
- Blood bank
- Chemistry
- Hematology
- Immunology
- Microbiology
Throughout the course of a typical workday, you might:
- Examine specimens under the microscope
- Operate complex computerized instrumentation
- Use immunologic methods to prepare units of blood for transfusion
- Identify disease-causing microorganisms

EARNINGS POTENTIAL
The median annual wage for medical laboratory scientists is $52,831 according to the American Society of Clinical Pathology.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
Students in the Department of Biomedical Laboratory Science are encouraged to join and participate in the laboratory professional organization of their choice. BLS faculty support the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, its state constituent society ASCLS-Missouri, and the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

ACCREDITATION
The Department of Biomedical Laboratory Science has been continuously accredited since the graduation of its first class in 1933. The Department is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science, 5600 N. River Road, Suite 720, Rosemont, IL 60018. For more information, visit naacls.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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