

DEGREE(S)

- + Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Medical Laboratory Science
- + Postbaccalaureate certificates in: Clinical Chemistry, Hematology and Microbiology

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The medical laboratory science (MLS) professional saves lives by performing and assuring the reliability of tests that provide objective information used in the early detection, diagnosis, monitoring and effective treatment of disease. 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.

Up to 80 percent of all clinical decisions are impacted by clinical laboratory testing. Each day offers a challenge and the opportunities to learn are endless. Throughout the course of a typical workday, a medical laboratory scientist might examine specimens under the microscope, operate complex computerized instrumentation, use immunologic methods to prepare units of blood for transfusion and/or identify disease-causing microorganisms.

Students in the medical laboratory science program have numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth through faculty, professional and peer interactions. Also, students are welcome as members of a variety of professional organizations such as the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

In the area of career development, the program facilitates attendance of MLS students at state professional meetings. In addition, clinical affiliates in the St. Louis area frequently request that our students seek part-time employment to garner clinical experience and are often retained as full-time employees upon graduation.

For students interested in getting involved in campus and community life, Saint Louis University provides numerous opportunities through its student life network.

ABOUT THE FACULTY

The medical laboratory science faculty are certified laboratory scientists that are nationally recognized within their profession and dedicated to developing competent graduates who are responsive to the needs of society.

CURRICULUM

Advantages to earning your B.S. in Medical Laboratory Science at Saint Louis University include:

- + Medically relevant coursework
- + Pre-professional health, pre-medicine, pre-physician assistant (PA) and PA Scholars curriculum options for degree candidates
- + Direct admission to the program as a freshman
- + Advancement to the professional phase of the program without additional application processes, provided the student remains in good academic standing
- + Medical Laboratory Science principles are integrated throughout the curriculum, providing students with both didactic and hands on learning opportunities
- + Opportunities to practice laboratory testing on real clinical specimens in the student laboratory

Medical laboratory scientists are important members of the health care team. They are skilled bio-analysts with diverse roles that include:

- + Testing blood and other body fluids to aid in diagnosis and treatment
- + Developing and evaluating new diagnostic tests
- + Consulting with patients and providers on issues related to laboratory services

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Contact

Doisy College of Health Sciences
314-977-2570
dchs@health.slu.edu

Graduate Programs

For a full listing of programs, visit graduate.slu.edu

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission consideration for the medical laboratory science program is initially based on a strong overall academic background. Currently, the average GPA of admitted students is 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, and the average ACT score is a 22.

Admission criteria include:

- + Minimum GPA of 3.0 in high school chemistry, biology, mathematics and English
- + Four years math (with algebra) and English, with some physics recommended
- + Minimum ACT score of 20 in each subsection (or equivalent SAT score) or above in each area

Transfer applicants must have a 2.5 GPA in math and science coursework and possess a 2.5 cumulative GPA. Interested applicants who do not meet all the admission requirements should still apply for individual consideration.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- + Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
 - In addition to University scholarships, the Doisy College of Health Sciences Alumni Association offers a scholarship to sophomores, juniors and seniors.
 - MLS scholarships are also offered to students at the program level.
- + Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

- + Accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS)
- + Clinical practicum placement guaranteed for students in good standing
- + Excellent and diverse clinical sites
- + Student laboratories with low student-to-faculty ratio
- + National certification exam pass rate consistently exceeds the national average and is often 100 percent
- + Active student association sponsoring service projects, social events, fundraisers and trips to professional conferences
- + Student opportunities to participate in professional organizations and conferences
- + Students are provided opportunities to present research at professional conferences
- + Upperclassmen eligible for discipline-specific scholarships
- + State of the art student laboratory facilities located in the Doisy College of Health Sciences
- + Graduate career placement rate typically between 95 and 100 percent
- + According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of Medical Laboratory Scientists is expected to have faster than average growth through 2026

Benefits of the MLS program also include several career opportunities. As a medical laboratory scientist, you would be qualified to work in five major areas of the laboratory: blood bank, chemistry, hematology, immunology and 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 and/or identify disease-causing microorganisms.

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/crime laboratories, laboratory equipment companies or pharmaceutical/biotechnology industries. Many graduates choose to go directly to graduate, medical or professional schools.

The general salary range depends on geographic location, years of experience and degree level (medical laboratory technician = associate's degree, medical laboratory scientist = bachelor's degree). The median annual salary for medical laboratory scientists and technicians was \$51,770 in May 2017 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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