

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN AAS

Medical Laboratory Technicians perform tests on blood and body fluids providing critical information to assist physicians in patient diagnosis and treatment, as well as disease monitoring or prevention. Graduates may seek employment with hospitals, independent laboratories, physicians, clinics, public health agencies, pharmaceutical firms and research institutions. Students who successfully complete all program requirements are eligible to sit for a nationally-recognized certification examination. Medical Laboratory Technicians enjoy a career that is ever-changing and challenging with many opportunities for professional and personal growth

Mission Statement

The mission of the Medical Laboratory Technician Program is to prepare students for entry into employment positions in clinical laboratories. This will be accomplished by preparing students academically to successfully pass national certifying exams in the profession of clinical laboratory science. Intellectual curiosity and ethical behavior will be stressed. The program will do so with a learning atmosphere that is supportive, safe, and responsive to the needs of students and of the community.

Transfer Opportunities

Articulation agreements with Alvernia University (Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Science), Immaculata University (Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Science) and University of Cincinnati (Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Laboratory Science) whereby credits earned as part of the AAS in the Medical Laboratory Technician Program transfer.

Admission Requirements

In order to be eligible for the Medical Lab Technician Program, a student must:

- Be a graduate of an approved secondary school or hold a high school equivalency diploma (GED®)
- Complete and submit the RACC Application for Admission.
- Take RACC placement tests in reading, writing, and mathematics, which may increase the number of courses required to complete the degree if not placed into college-level English Composition or mathematics.
- The student must meet with the MLT Program Director to review the selective admission process and to certify that the student is able to carry out the duties and responsibilities of a Medical Laboratory Technician Student by agreement through the “Essential Functions” document.

Selective Admission Guidelines

Clinical resources are limited. Therefore, admission into the clinical portion of the MLT program is on a selective basis. The clinical rotation begins on the first day of the Winter Interim and continues until the end of the Spring Semester. The deadline for application to the January class is June 1.

The student must meet the following ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA to be considered for selective admission into the clinical portion of the Medical Laboratory Technician Program:

- At the time of application, (Deadline: June 1), the following courses must be completed, or currently in progress: COM 121, COM 131 or 141, BIO 250, BIO 255, MLT 110, CHE 150, CHE 250, CHE 251, MAT 210, MLT 120, HEA 220, IFT 110. Students who require the summer to complete coursework may still apply but this will result in a reduction of assigned points and reduced rank position in the selection process.
- MLT students must have a "C" or better in all courses in the MLT curriculum.
- The student must achieve a combined math/science G.P.A. of 2.5 including the following courses: BIO 250, BIO 255, MAT 210, MLT 110, CHE 150, CHE 250, CHE 251, MLT 120.
- No course in the Medical Laboratory Technician Program curriculum, or which is a prerequisite for a course in the curriculum, can be repeated more than once. This requirement includes any courses taken at RACC or at another institution. It also includes courses from which the student may have withdrawn or in which the student earned less than a "C" grade.
- No more than 12 credits of the Medical Laboratory Technician Program curriculum may be repeated. This includes courses taken at RACC and at other institutions. It also includes withdrawals or courses in which the student earned less than a "C" grade.
- Course repeats or withdrawals that are older than ten years may be excluded from consideration in the admissions process at the discretion of the program director.
- Students must agree to abide by dress code/personal appearance and other policies set forth by the clinical affiliates

APPLICATION PROCESS

The student must submit the following by June 1:

- Submit a comprehensive Letter of Intent requesting entry into the next clinical class.
- Submit two (2) letters of recommendation; at least one must be from a RACC faculty member.

SELECTION PROCESS

- The MLT Selection Committee will meet after June 1 to determine eligibility, evaluate the applicant's application materials and assign a rank value to each applicant. A point system will be assigned to rank the student applicants. Incremental points will be awarded based on several criteria which include: the timeliness of the submitted documents, cumulative GPA, math/science GPA, program history and required course completion. Students who require the summer to complete coursework may still apply but this will result in a reduction of assigned points and

reduced rank position.

- The date of enrollment in the program will be the deciding factor between equally ranked students.
- Accepted students will receive a clinical assignment beginning with the highest ranked student until all the available clinical spaces are filled.
- Students meeting the criteria but not assigned due to lack of clinical sites will be placed on a ranked waiting list. These students will be given a clinical assignment if space becomes available prior to the beginning of the fall semester. Students not given a clinical assignment will be required to re-apply the next year following the full application protocol.
- Students who are accepted and decline their clinical placement will be required to re-apply the following year following the full application protocol.
- The student will receive a notice stating the committee's decision (Accepted, Accepted with provision, Declined, or Waiting list) and clinical site assignment by July 1.
- The student will register for the following Fall Semester Courses, unless already completed: MLT 211, BIO 280, CHE 260, Soc/Psych, and PHL 271 or 275 (NOTE: MLT 211 must be taken immediately prior to clinical experience). Progression into clinical experience is contingent upon satisfactory completion of Fall Semester coursework, and maintenance of a 2.5 G.P.A. in science and math.
- Accepted students will complete and submit the following by December 1:
 - a. Full medical assessment including physical exam, medical history, and vaccinations or proof of immunity.
 - b. Hepatitis B vaccination – documentation of first two inoculations.
 - c. CPR certification for the professional rescuer (approved providers are AHA/ARC).
 - d. “No record” status for PA Child Abuse Clearance, PA State Police Criminal Record Check and FBI fingerprint check.
 - e. Proof of a negative drug screen using specifications set forth by the clinical affiliate.
 - f. Proof of current enrollment in a health insurance plan.
- Students must agree to abide by dress code/personal appearance and other policies set forth by the clinical affiliates
- The MLT program reserves the right to review the academic performance and/or personal characteristics and qualities of any student within the program. Such a review may result in the dismissal of the student from the MLT Program.

The above policies may be changed if necessary in order to comply with our affiliate guidelines and NAACLS requirements. The Medical Laboratory Technician Program reserves the right to make changes in the Selective Admission Process without prior notice.

Essential Functions

The primary goal of the Medical Laboratory Technology program is to prepare qualified graduates for entry level employment in clinical laboratories. The duties of the Medical Laboratory Technician require the operation of complex, automated lab equipment in a safe and effective manner.

The following is a listing of the skills required for job performance. In order for students to be admitted into the MLT program, or to be retained in the program after admission, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

I. Physical Requirements:

A. Sufficient strength, agility, and mobility to safely:

- Move about the laboratory and through patient areas in order to perform phlebotomy
- Lift and transport containers weighing up to 25 pounds
- Reach equipment on shelves higher than eye level
- Work at countertops and bench tops having approximate standing height of 40-46 inches

B. Fine motor coordination sufficient to perform manual manipulation of lab equipment including, but not limited to:

- Pipettes, glass slides, and tubes
- Plating media and cover slips
- Reagents, instruments and analytical equipment

C. Adequate vision to:

- Read tube labels, instrument control panels, computer screens, and print-outs
- Visualize objects through a microscope differentiating color, morphology, shape and structure using various stains
- Distinguish color coding and biochemical reactions

D. Sufficient hearing to:

- Answer and respond to phones, beepers, timers and alarms
- Respond to questions
- Receive directions

II. Interpersonal Skills:

The ability to:

- Work in a professional manner with patients of all ages, races, creeds, and physical condition while maintaining and respecting patient confidentiality according to HIPAA regulations
- Interact with other members of the health care team in a polite, professional manner
- Students must possess the ability to read and write in English in order to receive written and verbal instructions and accurately carry them out using proper channels of communication

- Use accurate verbal and written communication in English to interpret laboratory data, obtain and document relevant clinical information, comprehend and carry out physician requests, and participate in patient/public education related to the profession of medical technology

III. Intellectual Ability and Emotional Stability to:

- Exercise independent judgment and avoid distraction in the technical performance of laboratory procedures.
- Solve laboratory mathematical problems quickly and accurately
- Use reasonable judgment under stressful conditions
- Work calmly and efficiently in stressful situations
- Complete program requirements
- Work independently and as a member of a team to maintain the highest standards in the delivery of patient care

IV. Environmental Requirements:

Laboratory work involves risks that require special safety precautions (including, but not limited to, working with sharps, chemicals and infectious materials), safety education, and health risk monitoring. It requires adherence to policies set forth by health care facilities.

Accreditation

The Medical Laboratory Technician Program at Reading Area Community College is accredited by NAACLS, The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, 5600 N. River Rd., Suite 720, Rosemont, IL 60018, (733) 714-8880, <http://www.naacls.org/>

For More Information

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