

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need to submit official transcripts to the Oregon Tech Admissions office and the Medical Lab Science program?

YES! Transcripts must be submitted with the general Oregon Tech application and a separate set submitted with your Medical Lab Science application packet.

2. Do all requirements and prerequisites have to be met to apply?

You can apply to the program before completing the requirements provided you have a **reasonable** plan in place to complete your requirements. All requirements must be completed by the **program start date**.

3. Are prerequisite courses taken at a community college accepted?

Prerequisite coursework can be completed at any accredited university or community college.

4. All my prerequisites were completed at a community college. Will my application be competitive?

The prerequisite courses are the minimum requirements and they can all be completed at a community college. However, it is recommended to take a few upper-division science courses to make your transition to a rigorous, full-time bachelor degree program smoother and make your application stronger. This is especially true if you have a weaker GPA.

5. I have a bachelor degree. Do I have to complete all four years of the program to earn my BS in Clinical Lab Science?

No, you must meet the prerequisites for the MLS program and complete the professional year of the program. The program requirements can be found on our website, follow the "With a Bachelor's Degree" plan. The professional year of the program is 15 months long.

6. How do I know which courses I have already completed will fulfill the program requirements?

Please read the program requirements found on our website. This lists the prerequisites and will help you determine if your courses match. There are instructions on our prospective student's page regarding transcript evaluations.

Medical Laboratory Science Program

Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

7. What is the student's cost for the entire program?

Resident tuition and fees for 2021-2022 is approximately \$26,000 (subject to change). Books, lab coat, and miscellaneous costs will add another \$2,000.

8. I have a master's degree or a Ph.D. What are my prerequisites for the program?

Please review the PDF attachment located on our website titled "Program Requirements." Follow the requirements for "With a Bachelor's Degree."

9. I have a master's degree or a Ph.D. Do I have to complete all the courses within the professional year of the program?

You must complete the entire 15 month program and successfully pass all courses within the professional program to earn your degree.

10. How long is the program?

The professional year of the program begins fall term, and progresses through five consecutive terms. The fall, winter, and spring terms are 11 weeks. Summer term is eight weeks. The last term is an extended, 15 week externship. The total devoted time is 15 months. The program ends in mid- December.

11. How big is the cohort?

The program accepts up to 36 full time students per year. Each year we receive 70-100 qualified applications.

12. What is the instructional format and structure?

During the first four quarters, students take courses that are integrated lecture and laboratory based. The externship is an in-depth immersion in a working medical laboratory.

13. Can I work while attending school?

We highly recommend that students devote their time to full-time study. The program is rigorous and fast-paced. You are in school all day (Monday through Friday), from 8am - 5pm. If you must work because of financial circumstances, please limit it to as few hours as possible for weekends or night shifts. Keep in mind that students have extensive homework and assignments outside of class time. The externship is similar in terms of time constraints.

14. Will I be eligible for the MLS certifying exams?

When you successfully complete the program you are eligible to take the ASCP MLS certification exam. Students are strongly encouraged to take the exam soon after they graduate.

Medical Laboratory Science Program

Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

15. How well do most of the MLS graduates do on the exams?

Our graduates have an excellent pass record on these exams. Historically, the pass rate is around 95%. In addition, mean scaled scores are well above the national mean.

16. Where are the classes conducted?

During the first four quarters, classes are held on the Portland-Metro campus. Students complete the final extended quarter off campus at clinical externship sites.

17. Are there sufficient externship slots for all the MLS students?

The program policy is that we accept only as many students as we can place in externship sites. While we are constantly evaluating and expanding our externship sites, students are not guaranteed placement in the Portland metro area or the State of Oregon.

18. Where are the externships conducted?

Hospital labs, reference labs, and clinics are all utilized. These sites are located throughout Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. **There is no guarantee you will be placed in the Portland metro area or the state of Oregon.**

19. Which institution grants my degree?

The MLS program is a joint effort of both Oregon Tech and Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). Your bachelor's degree will be granted as a joint-degree from both institutions.



Medical Laboratory Science Program

Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

20. What starting salary can I expect?

The most recent data indicates that starting salaries for most graduates will probably be in the \$50,000 - \$60,000 per year range.

21. Is every applicant interviewed?

Interview slots are limited. Selected applicants will be interviewed during the second half of February. If selected, you will be notified via email of your exact interview date, time, and location.

22. Can I work in California right after graduation?

For complete details on current California licensure information, please refer to the website of the California Division of Laboratory Science:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ls/lfsb/html/personnel.htm>.

23. Where is the MLS program located?

The program is located on the Oregon Tech's Portland-Metro campus at 27500 SW Parkway Ave, Wilsonville, Oregon 97070.

24. What is the average GPA admitted to the professional program?

The average GPA depends on the applicant pool. Depending on the year, it ranges from 3.2 to 3.4. The minimum GPA to apply is 2.5.

25. I still have questions. Who do I contact?

If you have read the FAQs and reviewed all materials found on the website and still have questions, you can contact **Debra Disko**, the Health Science Division Program Representative, at deb.disko@oit.edu.

