



Medical Laboratory Assistant, Certificate - 16 credits

Program Area: Health (Fall 2025)

*****REMEMBER TO REGISTER EARLY*****

Program Description

A Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA) is a multi-skilled person whose skills are focused on assisting in the medical laboratory. Competencies include medical terminology, phlebotomy skills, blood and body fluid processing, ability to assess validity of samples collected for laboratory tests and maintain validity of samples through the processing phase. MLAs must understand and comply with government regulations and safety in regard to human testing. Other skills include loading automated instrumentation, performing waived level laboratory testing, engaging in communication with laboratory staff as well as staff throughout the healthcare environment in a professional and effective manner. MLAs solve problems and complete tasks using verbal and non-verbal skills including computer systems. This program includes completion of the Phlebotomy Certificate and prepares students for certification as an MLA. Students may also prepare for entry into the MLT program.

Pre-Program Courses

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term
ALTH 1410	Medical Terminology	1	
ALTH 1440	Medical Ethics	1	
MTLN 1574	Collection Skills	3	
MLTN 1518	Medical Laboratory Procedures	3	

Required Courses

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term
MLTN 2577	Phlebotomy Internship	1	
MLTN 1610	Medical Laboratory Assistant Basics	4	
MLTN 1612	Medical Laboratory Assistant Clinical Practicum	3	

Total Credits

16

Courses may require a pre-requisite. Refer to course outline or check with an advisor.

Program Outcomes

- Prepare blood and body fluid specimens for analysis according to industry standards and prepare reagents, standards, and controls.
- Perform data entry using a Laboratory Information System (LIS).
- Perform phlebotomy following CLSI guidelines.
- Display behaviors and communication skills appropriate for the healthcare environment.
- Demonstrate HIPAA/confidentiality in the classroom and during clinical practicum.
- Demonstrate compliance with safety principles and guidelines as well as other laboratory regulations that may impact clinical site accreditation and patient safety.
- Demonstrate achievement in entry level competencies in performance of clinical laboratory waived testing procedures.
- Demonstrate the ability to pipet, prepare patient dilutions, prepare reagents, controls, standards, and other materials in support of clinical laboratory personnel performing moderate and high complexity analyses.

Qualified applicants should be aware that program class sizes are limited, which may delay acceptance into the program.

You may be required to complete additional (or less) coursework, dependent upon the results of your Computerized Placement Test (CPT) and/or previous coursework completed, or certifications awarded.

General Education courses that are required may be taken prior to entering the program, as long as the specific prerequisites for that course have been met. Prior to participating in MLA program courses, all pre-program courses listed must be completed with a GPA of 2.6 or better. A minimum of “C” is required in all college level courses. All program courses must be completed with a “C” or better to advance in the program.

Pre-Program Requirements

Successful entry into this program requires a specific level of skill in the areas of English, mathematics, and reading. Program entry will depend, in part, on meeting the prerequisites listed below.

English/Reading:

- Eligible for ENGL 1106 – College Composition I, or
- Completion of ENGL/READ 0950/0955 (or equivalent or higher). ENGL/READ 0950/0955 may not be taken concurrently with Semester I coursework.

Mathematics:

- Eligible for MATH 0970 – Intermediate Algebra or MATH 1100 – College Algebra or
- Completion of MATH 0955 or equivalent with a “C” or better. May not be taken concurrent with program courses.

NOTE: You will need current immunizations and current negative Tuberculosis (TB) screening. Background Study approval is required from the State of Minnesota/or Wisconsin. A national criminal background study is also required.

For more information about the Medical Laboratory Assistant certificate including course descriptions, course prerequisites, and potential career opportunities see the [program website](https://www.lsc.edu/degrees/medical-laboratory-assistant-certificate/) (https://www.lsc.edu/degrees/medical-laboratory-assistant-certificate/) or contact the [professional advising team](mailto:advising@lsc.edu) (advising@lsc.edu) at 218-733-7601.



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