



Clinical Laboratory Sciences Department
Online Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science
Website: <https://www.marshall.edu/clinical-laboratory-science/>

Program Description

The Marshall University Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences offers an online course of study for Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) which leads to a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Laboratory Science (MLS). Individuals who have obtained the Associate in MLT from Marshall University, or another NAACLS accredited program are eligible for admission into the online BS in MLS at Marshall University. There is a minimum of 120 credit hours required for completion of the BS in MLS at Marshall University, which can be obtained through courses taken at Marshall University and limited number of transfer courses from other colleges/universities. Residency requirements for graduation are explained later in these policies.

Admission Requirements

Applications are accepted at all times throughout the year; however, applications are reviewed, and admission is granted primarily before course enrollment periods each term, which is normally **March 1st for summer and fall terms, and October 1st for spring term each year. If applications are not received before these recommended dates for each semester, there likely would be a delay in admission to the program due to time needed for application processing, an entire semester. Summer applications for Fall admissions will be accepted, however, depending on timing there could be delays in processing.** To be considered for admission into the Marshall University Online Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Successful completion of an associate degree in Medical Laboratory Technology from a NAACLS accredited MLT/CLT program or approved military training program that meets eligibility requirements for ASCP MLT certification; documentation of one of these routes is required as part of the application packet.
2. Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 prior to admission.

There are two parts to application to the online BS in MLS program at Marshall University – one is general application to the Marshall University, and the second is specific application requirements to the MLS Program Director; the specific steps are outlined below:

Marshall University General Admissions requirements:

- a. General application or re-application to Marshall University; online application can be found through this [Marshall University Application Link](#).
- b. Submission of **official** sealed transcripts from all institutions attended directly from the institution to Marshall University Admissions along with application for general admission; **we do not do informal transcript reviews as many credits transfer differently from institution to institution – only formal evaluation of credits is performed.** Official sealed transcripts **must** be received directly from the institution to MU Admissions; any copies sent to the MLS Program Director cannot be used for university evaluation purposes.

Separate MLS Program Application requirements (in addition to General Admission; these sent directly to MLS Program Director):

- c. Application Form: [MLS Application Form](#)
- d. Submission of **at least two** of the following documents (can be scanned):
 - i. Proof of MLT (ASCP) certification
 - ii. Copy of transcript with MLT degree conferred, including date, from NAACLS accredited program.
 - iii. Copy of official diploma for MLT degree from NAACLS accredited program
 - iv. Letter from Program Director of NAACLS accredited MLT program stating successful completion.
 - v. Copy of document showing successful completion of a clinical laboratory science program through the military giving eligibility for MLT (ASCP) certification

Please send the completed application form, and required application documents for the online BS in MLS Program at Marshall University to:

Dr. Jennifer D. Perry, Ed.D., Medical Laboratory Scientist, MLS (ASCP)
Email: jennifer.perry@marshall.edu

Emailed application materials are preferred over regular US Mail

Students will not be evaluated or accepted into the MLS program until all admission procedures have been completed, all required documents have been received, and all transcripts for transfer credits have been formally processed through the Marshall University system.

Marshall University MLT students and students from linked programs: Need only to submit notification via email or letter in the last year of their MLT program of their intention to continue into the online BS in Medical Laboratory Science. Past graduates need to provide their Marshall University 901# or 903# and date of graduation from the program.

Current Marshall University MLT Students: Admission will be granted to current Marshall University MLT students who have had continuous enrollment each semester in the program coursework and who have provided written notification of their desire to continue to the online MLS program during the final year of their MLT program.

*The Marshall University online Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science does not discriminate against applicants from any geographic region of the USA, however, some states do have statutes and laws that make it difficult, perhaps impossible, for Marshall University to reach a legal distance education agreement with facilities in the state. In addition, clinical agreements with health care facilities in certain states may not be possible due to extreme measures enacted by state organizations to limit learning and career opportunities for qualified MLS students. For Marshall University to reach a legal affiliation agreement with a clinical site within a state, the state must be an approved member of SARA. Please be aware that it may be extremely difficult to successfully secure supervised practice rotations in areas that are not approved members of SARA. Without practice sites or legal distance education agreements between Marshall University and the facility, there is a strong likelihood that you may not complete the required clinical experiences for the MLS program, and not be eligible for graduation. **Currently, the state of California does not participate in SARA.***

To determine if your state is a member of SARA and to learn more about these reciprocity agreements, please use the following link:

Link: <http://nc-sara.org/sara-states-institutions>

Coursework/Curriculum

Students transferring from other NAACLS accredited programs must complete equivalent pre-requisite courses to those listed in the MU BS in MLS program to obtain a BS from Marshall University, which includes meeting Core Curriculum standards.

Transfer students with 30 or more college credits are exempt from FYS and one CT course, but must complete one CT course, all of Core II and the additional University requirements. Effective Fall 2018, transfer students with 60 or more college credits are exempt from all Core I (FYS and both CT courses) but must complete all of Core II and the additional University requirements. Core II may be fulfilled through a combination of transfer and Marshall credit hours.

Students enrolled at Marshall University prior to Summer 2010 who change majors and/or colleges may choose to remain under their original general education requirements, or they may opt into the Core Curriculum under the same terms as transfer students.

For more information on Core Curriculum requirements, visit the [General Education website](#).

In addition, MLT courses from other NAACLS accredited programs will be evaluated and course substitution credit will be recorded for 100 and 200 level CLS courses where appropriate by the MU CLS department chair. Under special circumstances where an individual has graduated from an MLT program greater than five years previous, and has not worked as an MLT, proficiency exams may be required for substitution credit to be granted for 100 and 200 level CLS courses.

The CLS 300 and 400 level courses of the BS in MLS Program are offered through online course delivery. There are online options for all general non-CLS prerequisite courses offered online through Marshall University. A copy of the curriculum for transfer students as well as the track for Marshall University MLT graduates will be provided to each student depending on which category they fall under.

Minimum MLT Knowledge Competency: If a student has graduated from an MLT program greater than five years prior to admission into the MLS program at Marshall University, then a competency exam for MLT content knowledge will be assessed soon after entry into the program. Instructions will be offered soon after entry on an individual basis for this assessment and the steps each student will take. If a student does not score a minimum on the competency exam, then they will be required to take an individual independent study review course as part of their graduation requirements for MLT content.

Residency Requirements for transfer students: From the Marshall University catalog for all transfer students *“Residence Requirements For all undergraduate degrees, at least one year’s work in residence is required. “In residence” means to be enrolled in Marshall University courses. A “year in residence” comprises at least 24 hours credit earned in at least two semesters’ work in residence or one semester and two summer terms in residence. One semester must be in the senior year. Transfer students must take at least 12 hours of 300/400 level coursework in their college and at least 15 hours in their major field except for Combined College and Professional Programs.”*

A maximum of **only 72 credit hours from community colleges** can be applied towards the minimum 120 hours required for graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree at Marshall University. The minimum 120 graduation hours must be met, as well as all course requirements for the MLS program for graduation with a BS degree in MLS.

In addition to meeting the stated criteria above for general residency, all MLS students MUST complete all 300/400 level CLS courses required for the MLS degree at Marshall University – no previous/transfer credit from other institutions will be accepted for these courses.

For a copy of the current curriculum plans, please visit our website:

<http://www.marshall.edu/clinical-laboratory-science/students/>

CLS progression and Part Time Enrollment options

Full time at Marshall University requires that students take a minimum of twelve credit hours each semester. Required non-CLS courses in the curriculum may be taken in any sequence and in any combination but must all be completed no later than the very final fall semester in the program along with final Fall CLS courses listed below. Part time enrollment is permitted in the program, and students can take as little or as many credit hours each semester of non-CLS and Preliminary CLS courses listed below, however, keeping in mind that CLS courses are only offered once per year in the semesters listed. The Final CLS courses listed below MUST all be taken only in the final year of graduation from the program, in the sequence listed. Progression to final spring semester graduation CLS courses is only permitted if all other CLS and non-CLS are successfully completed in the immediate fall term prior with a minimum of a “C” or greater. Please see the listings below for semester offerings of both Preliminary and Final CLS courses for the MLS program:

Fall Semester Preliminary CLS courses	CrHrs	Spring Semester Preliminary CLS courses	CrHrs
CLS 320 Advanced Topics in CLS*	3		
CLS 460 Laboratory Management and Education	3	CLS 310 Clinical Immuno. & Molecular Diagnostics	3
CLS 499 Seminar in Laboratory Medicine	<u>2</u>	CLS 466 Diagnostic Physiology	<u>3</u>
Total Hours	8	Total Hours	6
Fall Semester Final CLS courses	CrHrs	Spring Semester**** (Final Graduation courses)	CrHrs
CLS 400 Advanced Clinical Chemistry	2	CLS 468 Senior Research/Capstone	3
CLS 410 Advanced Immunohematology	2	CLS 472,473 Advanced Clinical Practicum I & II	6
CLS 420 Advanced Clinical Microbiology	2	CLS 464 Laboratory Instrumentation	<u>3</u>
CLS 430 Advanced Hematology	<u>3</u>	Total Hours	12
Total Hours	9		

Once a student has been accepted into the BS in MLS online program, he/she will work together with the chair/program director to outline an acceptable curriculum completion plan.

****CLS 320 should be taken in the very first fall semester after admission to the MLS program***

******* CLS courses in this final Spring Semester can only be taken immediately preceding anticipated commencement in May. All other previous CLS courses, as well as all non-CLS courses must be completed successfully by the end of the immediately preceding fall semester and recorded on the MU transcript before a student will be permitted to take these final spring semester CLS courses.***

Advanced Clinical Practicum/Applied Learning Experiences

There is not a full clinical rotation for the online BS in MLS program at Marshall University, rather, students complete required clinical tasks in courses taken in the final semester of the program. Most students in the program are working either full or part-time and can manage the required tasks while working. All students will complete requirements of the CLS 464, Laboratory Instrumentation, CLS 472, Advanced Clinical Practicum I, and CLS 468 Senior Research courses in the clinical practicum setting during the final semester of the BS in MLS program.

Clinical Affiliation Agreements and Other Required Accreditation Paperwork

It is the sole responsibility of all admitted MLS students to secure their own clinical site placement for required clinical tasks and bear the costs and complete any necessary testing or specific requirements of the clinical site in the final semester of the program. Students will be required upon admission to the BS in MLS program to initiate the process of clinical site placement and/or the clinical affiliation process with a clinical laboratory in a hospital for advanced clinical experiences and obtain the necessary signed clinical affiliation documentation by the end of the fall semester preceding the students' anticipated advanced clinical practicum spring semester of graduation; signed clinical affiliations, and facility and faculty fact sheets are required by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS) program accreditation. Additionally, the Program Director must approve all clinical affiliations. Failure of the student to complete these requirements would make the student ineligible for clinical site placement and would delay, or prevent, graduation from the BS in MLS program.

Travel Techs: The clinical site placement and paperwork policy also applies to travel techs. Any student who travels and moves from clinical sites frequently should plan well in advance to secure a site that will be willing to provide all required clinical placement paperwork at the time required prior to the final semester of the program. Travelers should also avoid splitting clinical sites during the final semester in the program; doing so could hinder required clinical tasks and projects in the final semester and prevent graduation from the program. It is the sole responsibility of anyone traveling to secure a site and provide all required clinical paperwork by the end of the fall semester immediately preceding the spring semester of graduation.

No student is permitted to plan or execute any clinical tasks required in any course without all fully signed paperwork for all clinical sites utilized completed and on file in the Program Director's office.

Cost

Online course fees at Marshall University are very affordable compared with institutions across the nation - for current online tuition visit this [link](#). Additional tuition and fees may apply to courses taken at MU that are not online.

Contact Information

For more information, please feel free to contact the program director through the information below:

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