

# MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST

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## Job Description

The Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) is an important member of the health care team in hospitals, clinics, medical research and teaching centers, and is an indispensable participant with physicians in providing critical diagnostic information. The MLS functions as a dependable, ambitious and highly motivated professional capable of handling high stress situations with ease and confidence.

The Medical Laboratory Scientist performs and interprets diagnostic laboratory procedures using state-of-the-art instrumentation to aid in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of disease; monitors the standards of accuracy and precision in the performance of tests; performs routine maintenance; analyzes and corrects instrument problems; researches, evaluates and implements new procedures; and may be responsible for fiscal/personnel management of the laboratory.

## Program Description

The College of Southern Nevada's Medical Laboratory Scientist Program is a four-year course of study that prepares students to work in all areas of the laboratory (i.e., hematology, chemistry, blood bank, immunology, microbiology and urinalysis). Courses in each of the disciplines mentioned are presented in both lecture and laboratory format. Additionally, students will be assigned to local laboratories to obtain clinical experience. Upon successful completion of the program the student is awarded a Bachelor of Applied Science Degree and becomes eligible to take a national certification exam. \* Students who pass the certifying examination are eligible for Nevada licensure as a Medical Technologist.

## Accepted Students

Students accepted into the program will be required to show proof of health insurance and immunization against Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis. Proof of a negative TB skin test and negative urine drug screen will be required prior to the first scheduled practicum/clinical experience. A physical examination must also be completed. In addition, an official background check is required.

Prospective students are advised that a prior felony conviction may preclude subsequent licensure to practice as an MLS in Nevada (NRS 652.220).

Approximate Salary  
Hourly Wage Range: .....\$20.43 - \$43.19  
Source: "www.careeronestop.org" 2012

## ACCREDITATION

\* The BAS in Medical Laboratory Scientist Program is accredited through the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS)  
5600 N. River Rd., Ste 720  
Rosemont, IL 60018-5119  
(847) 939-3597

## Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate comprehension of concepts and techniques in all major clinical laboratory disciplines.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to perform and interpret complex laboratory procedures.
- Perform and interpret associated quality assurance procedures.
- Develop skills in leadership, resource management, research, and teaching.
- Demonstrate entry-level competencies necessary to secure employment as a medical laboratory scientist.
- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully pass the national certification examination.

## Essential observational, movement, communication, and behavioral requirements for MLSSs.

- The MLS student must be able to:
- Observe laboratory demonstrations in which biologicals (i.e., fluids, culture materials, tissue sections, and cellular specimens) are tested for their biochemical, hematological, immunological, microbiological, and histochemical components.
  - Characterize the color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of biologicals, reagents, or chemical reaction products.

## Approximate Costs

### Tuition:

80 credits X \$90.00 per credit hr (lower div).....	\$7200.00
40 credits X \$143.75 per credit hr (upper div) .....	\$5750.00
Books.....	\$1610.00
Lab Fees.....	\$200.00
Lab Coat.....	\$35.00
Physical Exam.....	\$50.00-\$75.00
Immunizations.....	\$0.00 -600.00
Urine Drug Screen.....	\$30.00
Background Check.....	\$50.00
Medical Insurance.....	\$20.00-\$190.00/month

Applies only if you are presently uninsured.

### License/Certification:

Nevada License.....	\$113.00
National Certification.....	\$150.00
College Admission Fee.....	\$10.00

One time, non-refundable fee charged to new students only.

### Non-resident Fee.....\$3322.50 per semester

This is in addition to the tuition and technology fee and is assessed to nonresident students enrolling in 7 or more credit hours.

- Employ a clinical grade binocular microscope to discriminate among fine structural and color (hue, shading, and intensity) differences of microscopic specimens. Move freely and safely about a laboratory.
- Read and comprehend text, numbers, and graphs displayed in print and on a video monitor.
- Reach laboratory benches and shelves, patients lying in hospital beds or patients seated in specimen collection furniture.
- Travel to numerous clinical laboratory sites for practical experience.
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting, over several hours.
- Maneuver phlebotomy and culture acquisition equipment to safely collect valid laboratory specimens from patients.
- Control laboratory equipment (i.e., pipettes, inoculating loops, test tubes).
- Use an electronic keyboard to operate laboratory instruments and to calculate, record, evaluate, and transmit laboratory information.
- Read and comprehend technical and professional materials.
- Follow verbal and written instructions in order to correctly and independently perform laboratory test procedures.
- Effectively, confidentially, and sensitively converse with patients regarding laboratory tests.
- Communicate with faculty members, fellow students, staff, and other health care professionals verbally and in recorded format (writing, typing, graphics, or telecommunication).
- Independently prepare papers, laboratory reports, and take written, computer, and laboratory practical examinations
- Be able to manage the use of time and be able to systemize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic constraints.
- Possess the emotional health necessary to effectively employ intellect and exercise appropriate judgment.
- Be able to provide professional and technical services while experiencing the stresses of task-related uncertainty.
- Be flexible and creative and adapt to professional and technical changes.
- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situations and proceed safely in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, self, and nearby individuals.