

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Do I need to submit official transcripts to the Oregon Tech Admissions department 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 course work 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 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 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.
7. What is the student's cost for the entire program?
Resident tuition and fees for 2020-21 is approximately \$24,500. Books, lab coat, miscellaneous costs will add another \$1,200 - \$1,500.
8. I have a Master's degree or a PhD. What are my prerequisites for the program?
Please review the PDF attached located on our website titled "Program Requirements". Follow the requirements for "With a Bachelor degree".
9. I have a Master's degree or a PhD. 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 5 consecutive terms. The fall, winter, and spring terms are 11 weeks. Summer term is 8 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 class?
The program accepts 50 full time students per year. Each year we receive 70 – 100 qualified applications.
12. What is the instructional format and structure?
During the first 4 quarters, students take courses that involve lecture and textbook study and courses that are intergraded lecture and laboratory based. The externship is an in-depth immersion in a working clinical 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.
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 95% for 1st time takers. 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 Wilsonville 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 Oregon, Southern Washington, Western Idaho, Hawaii and northern Nevada. **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 OHSU. Your BS degree will be granted as a joint-degree from both institutions.
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.

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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 website: <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 campus at 27500 SW Parkway, 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 can I contact?
If you have read the FAQs and reviewed all materials found on the website and still have questions, you may contact Debra Disko Health Science Division Program's Representative at deb.disko@oit.edu