Wornall Road

2020

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MEdical Laboratory science program

Prospective Student Information Guide

4401 Wornall Road

Kansas City, MO 64111

816-932-3395

saintlukeskc.org/education



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Dear Prospective Medical Laboratory Scientist:

Thank you for your interest in the Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program! This handbook will provide helpful information about our program, including requirements for admission.

Our MLS Program provides students with lectures in advance of the relevant lab experiences, which facilitates understanding of material and correlation between different laboratory sections. The group learning activities foster teamwork and camaraderie.

Our clinical laboratory was recently remodeled, and student space expanded to include two spacious classrooms with personal computers. Our full-service regional reference laboratory is equipped with the latest instruments and technology. Students work alongside laboratory staff instructors who provide extensive hands-on learning opportunities. Our graduates begin their new careers as skilled, professional, and confident laboratory scientists.

The quality of our program is reflected in outcome measures of our graduates. Our 2019-2021 graduates achieved a 98% pass rate on the ASCP MLS certification exam. Graduates of our program are in high demand, with typical starting salaries in this region above $55,000. Among our 2019-2021 graduates, 100% found employment within three months; many secure their first job before they complete the program.

Please let us know if you have additional questions after reviewing the handbook. We also encourage you to visit our website at <https://www.saintlukeskc.org/medical-laboratory-science-program> for additional information.

Best Regards,

Brenna Ildza, MHS, MLS(ASCP)SH, PBT

Medical Laboratory Science Program Director

Program Accreditation

The history of the first formal accrediting body in the medical laboratory field dates from 1933, which marked the beginning of the Board of Schools of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP). The Board was responsible for establishing the academic course requirements and the essential requirements for the hospital educational component of any approved Program in Medical Technology. The Board of Schools existed until December 1973, when a new independent agency, the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), assumed the duties of the Board.

NAACLS includes representatives from ASCP, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), other laboratory professions, the education community, and the public on its board. NAACLS reviews Program requests for accreditation and re-accreditation by reviewing Program reports, assembling, and conducting site visits of each Program.

Saint Luke’s Hospital School of Medical Technology was on the original list of seventy-seven schools published in 1936 by the Board of Registry of ASCP in conjunction with the American Medical Association. Saint Luke’s Hospital Program has maintained continuous accreditation since that time. In 1990, Saint Luke’s Program name changed from the School of Medical Technology to the Program in Clinical Laboratory Science, to reflect a national trend away from the general phrase M*ed Tech* which is often confused with Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Certified Medication Technician (CMT). In 2017, the program name changed to Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program for continuity with the ASCP Board of Certification.

NAACLS designates and approves Program Officials for the Saint Luke’s Hospital Program. **Alexander Braun, MD,** certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology as well as Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine by the American Board of Pathology, serves as **Medical Advisor**. **Brenna Ildza, MHS, MLS(ASCP)SH, PBT** is the **Program Director.** The Program Director holds academic appointments at affiliated colleges and universities.

Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), 5600 N. River Road, Suite 720, Rosemont, Illinois 60018-5119, (773) 714-8880, info@naacls.org

Program Mission Statement

In keeping with Saint Luke’s Hospital’s teaching mission, the Medical Laboratory Science Program integrates cognitive, psychomotor and affective learning to provide an educational experience that enhances scientific, technical and professional development of Medical Laboratory Scientists.

Program Goals

Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program assumes responsibility for providing educational facilities, instructors, and learning experiences in an environment that enables students to develop as professional and responsible members of the health care community.

Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program is maintained to provide benefits to the Hospital, the Health System and the health care community that include:

* Providing scientific and technical instruction to students who aspire to become professionally certified as Medical Laboratory Scientists
* Maintaining optimal MLS staff levels for the Hospital and Health System
* Decreasing MLS recruitment costs and open MLS position time
* Providing MLS staff with opportunities to teach and thus, to learn
* Maintaining the continuity and legacy of Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program, which has been in continuous operation since 1933

Program Objectives

Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program was established to provide the necessary learning experiences for students to:

* Obtain a Certificate of Completion by meeting criteria for progression and completion of the Program
* Demonstrate ability to perform as a Medical Laboratory Scientist at entry level as defined by NAACLS Standards and Entry Level Competencies
* Successfully challenge the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) exam

**MLS Career Entry Level Competencies**

Program Goals are aligned with the Saint Luke’s Hospital Mission, Goals, and Core Values, in addition to NAACLS competencies for a Medical Laboratory Scientist. All serve to guide the development of the Saint Luke’s Hospital Program curricula.

Upon completion of the Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program, the graduate will be able to:

* develop and establish procedures for collecting, processing, and analyzing biological specimens and other substances
* perform analytical tests on body fluids, cells and other substances
* integrate, relate and recognize discrepancies in complementary data generated by various clinical laboratory departments
* confirm abnormal results, verify quality control and quality assurance measures, and institute proper procedures to ensure and maintain accuracy and precision
* establish and perform preventive and corrective maintenance of equipment and instruments, and identify appropriate sources for repair
* develop, evaluate and select new techniques, instruments and methods in terms of their usefulness and practicality within the context of personnel, equipment, space and budgetary resources
* demonstrate professional conduct and interpersonal skills with patients, laboratory staff,

other health care professionals and the public, as assessed through the Saint Luke’s Health System Core Values

* establish and maintain continuing education as a function of growth and maintenance of professional competence
* provide leadership in educating other members of the health care environment and community
* exercise principles of management, safety and supervision
* apply principles of educational methodology
* apply principles of laboratory information systems
* describe the role of a Medical Laboratory Scientist in the healthcare environment

**Non-Discrimination Policy**

Saint Luke’s Health System does not discriminate based on sex, race, religion, age, handicap, sexual orientation or national origin in the administration of its educational policies. Saint Luke’s is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Academic Affiliates

Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program is affiliated with the following academic institutions:

Kansas State University

 **Missouri Southern State University**

Missouri Western State University

Northwest Missouri State University

**Pittsburg State University**

Rockhurst University

University of Central Missouri

University of Missouri – Kansas City

 **University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh**

Clinical Affiliates

Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program has no affiliations with other institutions for the purpose of providing MLS students alternate clinical sites for education. All clinical rotations take place within Saint Luke’s Hospital Department of Pathology, which operates as a hospital and full-service reference laboratory. If Saint Luke’s Hospital Laboratory cannot provide planned learning activities, course instructors are responsible for arranging a comparable demonstration of essential learning experiences.

**MLS Essential Requirements**

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| **Observational Requirements**The student must demonstrate adequate vision to:* Observe laboratory procedures in which biological samples including blood, bone marrow, body fluids, culture materials, tissue sections and cellular specimens are processed and handled
* Characterize color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of biological samples, reagents, or chemical reactions
* View biological samples through a microscope, differentiating color, shading, morphology, shape, and fine structure of stained and unstained preparations
* Read and comprehend test orders, policies, procedures, tube labels, instrument control panels, computer screens, instrument printouts, test results, charts and graphic materials displayed in print or on a video monitor
* Judge distance and depth.
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| **Movement Requirements**The student must demonstrate sufficient strength, mobility, dexterity, and fine motor skills to:* Move freely and safely within the laboratory and in patient areas when performing phlebotomy
* Comfortably access patients in seated or lying positions to collect blood samples
* Reach laboratory instrument, equipment, bench tops and supplies that may be on shelves higher than eye level
* Manipulate laboratory equipment (test tubes, pipets, slides, cover slips, inoculating loops) and adjust instruments to perform procedures
* Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting or standing
* Travel independently to selected sites for practical and seminar experiences.
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| **Intellectual Requirements**The student must:* Possess these intellectual skills: comprehension, measurement, mathematical calculation, reasoning, integration, analysis, comparison, self-expression, and criticism
* Be able to exercise sufficient judgment to recognize and correct performance deviations.
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**MLS Essential Requirements**

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| **Communication Requirements**The student must be able to:* Demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills in the English language
* Read and comprehend technical and professional materials (textbooks, journal articles, handbooks, instruction manuals)
* Follow verbal and written instructions to perform laboratory procedures correctly and independently
* Clearly instruct patients prior to specimen collection
* Converse with patients effectively, confidentially, and sensitively
* Communicate with faculty members, fellow students, staff, and other health care professionals in written and verbal formats
* Independently prepare papers and laboratory reports
* Take paper, computer, and laboratory practical examinations
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| **Behavioral Requirements**The student must be able to:* Manage time and systematize actions to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic constraints
* Effectively utilize emotional health and intellect to exercise appropriate judgment
* Provide professional and technical services while experiencing task-related stresses in a distracting environment (high noise levels, crowding, complex visual stimuli)
* Be flexible and adapt to professional and technical changes
* Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment and situations and proceed safely to minimize risk of injury to patients, self, and nearby individuals
* Adapt to working with unpleasant biological materials
* Support activities of fellow students and staff to promote a team approach to learning, task completion, problem solving, and patient care
* Be honest, compassionate, ethical, and responsible; be forthright about errors or uncertainty; critically evaluate own and others’ performance; offer and accept constructive criticism; seek out ways to improve.
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Note: These lists are not inclusive of all functions.

**Course Descriptions**

**Me 450: Clinical Microbiology (6) Carrie Blazer, MLS(ASCP)**

Isolation and identification of microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, rickettsiae, parasites and fungi, that cause disease; clinical interpretation of tests and correlation of results with patient condition. Follows general college microbiology and/or pathogenic microbiology.

**Me 455: Clinical Chemistry (6) Jenny Angelo MLS(ASCP)**

Quantitation of biochemicals correlating to patient condition; analytical techniques; manual test procedures; operation, troubleshooting and validation of results from sophisticated instrumentation using computer hardware and software. Follows a minimum of sixteen semester hours of college chemistry, including coursework in biochemistry.

**Me 460: Clinical Hematology (6) Erin Risvold, MT(ASCP)SH**

Study of blood and blood cell abnormalities, with correlation of instrument and microscope findings to patient condition; evaluation of blood clotting and coagulation mechanisms, including the monitoring of anticoagulant therapy; chemical analysis and identification of cells or formed elements in bone marrow, spinal fluid, urine, and other fluids.

**Me 465: Immunohematology (4) Elizabeth Jones, MT(ASCP)BB**

Analysis of the relationships between donor blood components and blood recipients; introduction to all red blood cell antigen systems; antigen and antibody detection; prevention of transfusion incompatibilities; assessment of patient transfusion-related occurrences.

**Me 470: Clinical Immunology (4) Melinda Mills, MA, MLS(ASCP)MB**

Immunofluorescence, enzyme immunoassay, dilutions, molecular diagnostics, radioimmunoassay, and other immunochemistry, using sophisticated instrumentation with current computer hardware and software.

**Me 475: Topics in MLS I (2) Carrie Blazer, MLS(ASCP) &**

**Barbara Mick, MLS(ASCP)PBT**

Clinical workshops on a variety of topics including phlebotomy, parasitology, mycology, flow cytometry and mycobacteriology.

**Me 480: Topics in MLS II (2) Brenna Ildza, MHS, MLS(ASCP)SH, PBT**

Professional seminars, guest lectures, and planned visits with other health professionals; topics include clinical case studies, medical ethics issues, hospital and laboratory management, laboratory information systems, communication, education, research and development, and career entry options. Course culminates in a Professional Topics journal with articles chosen, researched, written, and produced by students.

**Admission Requirements**

The highly competitive Medical Laboratory Science Program accepts up to ten students among college undergraduates and recent college graduates every six months. Our program promotes a broad view of diversity in both our workforce and student population.

The Medical Laboratory Science Program accepts applications for two classes:

* January – December
* July – June

 To apply, you must meet **one of the following** two criteria:

**1. Completion of three years at one of our affiliated universities**

These students are on track to complete a degree in Medical Laboratory Science and will earn their final 30 credit hours toward a bachelor’s degree in our program.

**2. A bachelor’s degree in:**

* Biology
* Chemistry
* Microbiology
* A related science

The degree must have included all the following coursework:

**Chemistry: 16 credit hours**Includes general and upper division lecture and laboratory courses

* General Chemistry I and II (lecture and lab)
* Biochemistry (lab not required)

**Biology: 16 credit hours**Includes general and upper division lecture and laboratory courses
Note: Microbiology and immunology must be separate courses.

* General biology
* Physiology (Human preferred)
* Microbiology (Pathogenic preferred)
* Genetics
* Immunology (lab not required)

**Math: Three or more credit hours**College level or equivalent

**Other preferred prerequisites:**

* Cell biology
* Molecular biology
* Parasitology
* Virology

**Additional Program Requirements**

* GPA, overall and science, minimum of 2.5 on 4.0 scale
* Applicants with coursework completed more than seven years ago may be required to take additional courses before program admission.
* Completion of the following prior to admission:
	+ Health assessment, including immunization status
	+ Drug screen
	+ Criminal background check

**International Student Requirements**

Applicants who completed their education outside of the United States and will not be awarded a U. S. baccalaureate degree must submit the following with their application:

* Photocopy of transcript and degree
* Transcript evaluation from an acceptable United States evaluation agency (comprehensive list on ASCP website)
* Documentation of legal and permanent eligibility for employment in the United States

Applicants may be required to complete additional prerequisite coursework if deemed necessary based on the transcript evaluation.

**English Proficiency**
Because the ability to communicate effectively is an essential skill for health care professionals, students applying to Saint Luke’s Medical Laboratory Science Program must demonstrate oral and written communication proficiency in the English language. Students for whom English is a second language must meet these requirements by achieving minimum scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Applicants must:

* Demonstrate minimum TOEFL scores
* Achieve an overall score of 600 (paper-based) or 90 (internet-based)
* Have individual scores of Good or High (ranges on TOEFL website) for Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing
* Include TOEFL scores on application
* Submit official TOEFL score report to Saint Luke’s MLS Program with application

**Application Instructions**

Students enrolled at one of our academic affiliates should apply after completion of the second year, even though prerequisite coursework may still be in progress. Students who have completed an undergraduate degree may apply at any time.

Classes begin each January and July and end in December and the following June. Applications may be submitted at any time for either class.

 To apply:

* Complete the online application on our website. Remember the following notes when completing the application:
	+ Enter ACT or SAT scores
	+ Calculate and enter science GPA
	+ Provide personal statement
	+ Acknowledge:
		- Essential Requirements
		- Statement of Understanding
		- Waiver of Access to Reference Statements
		- International Student Requirements
* Send official college/university transcript electronically or in a sealed envelope mailed separately
* Submit application fee: $35 electronically or by check payable to Saint Luke’s Hospital MLS Program. Call 816-932-3395 for electronic payment. It does not have to be the same day as the application.

Send mailed documents to:

Medical Laboratory Science Program
Saint Luke’s Hospital

4401 Wornall Road
Kansas City, MO 64111

***Follow instructions carefully - incomplete application packets will not be considered.***

**Next Steps**

Following the receipt of all application materials, the most highly qualified applicants will be scheduled for interviews.

**Applicant selection**

The following factors are considered in assessing an applicant’s admission to the program:

* Academic record and course load
* College advisor and academic/professional references
* Attention to detail and instructions
* Personal statement
* College affiliation
* Communication skills, written and oral
* Professional demeanor
* Career aspirations

The Admissions Committee carefully evaluates application and interview materials before making decisions. Applicants are notified of their admission decision as soon as possible after the interview. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to re-apply for a subsequent class by completing a new application and submitting updated academic transcripts.

Cost Disclosures

Matriculation Fee

A non-refundable matriculation fee of $250 is required from accepted applicants to hold a position in the class.

Tuition

Program Tuition is the responsibility of the student. Tuition for the clinical year is $4000.00 + a $200.00 lab fee. Payment can be electronic or by check for $4200.00 made payable to Saint Luke’s Hospital MLS Program. Students enrolled as a degree seeking students in a college charging additional tuition and/or fees during the clinical year are responsible for all such charges.

Students will be required to complete a tuition payment plan by the end of the first week of classes. The plan constitutes a formal contract; any breach may be grounds for dismissal.

Textbooks

The Program textbook rental fee is$200. Students may purchase new textbooks on their own if desired.

Expenses that are the Student’sresponsibility

* Living expenses: food, housing, travel, clothing, etc.
* Optional professional society dues
* Health insurance and medical costs
* Personal expenses

Financial Aid

Students working toward their undergraduate degree with affiliated academic institutions may be eligible for financial aid through the university. Saint Luke’s Hospital does not offer financial aid for students enrolled in the Program.

Refund Policies

For veterans or eligible persons as defined by the Veterans Administration:

* A refund of tuition and book fees will be made to students who fail to enter or fail to complete the Program. The refund will be within 10% of an exact pro rata refund. No more than $10 of the tuition fee will be retained if a student fails to enter the course on the designated start date.

For all other students:

* 50% of tuition is refundable before February 1 of the entering year or August 1 of the entering year depending on the class start date.
* 0% is refundable on or after February 1 or August 1 of the entering year
* Refunds to students can only be made after all financial aid sources are refunded in full, if tuition was received directly from such sources.

**Student Policies**

# Personal Appearance

1. MLS students must meet general rules for all Hospital employees per the Dress Code/Professional Appearance Policy (Appendix A).
2. Students are responsible for following the Policy.
3. Laboratory coats provided and laundered by SLH.
4. Scrubs and business casual are appropriate attire.
5. No jeans, sweats, tee shirts or similar casual wear allowed.

Professional Conduct

1. MLS students must meet general rules for all Hospital employees per the Rules of Conduct and Disruptive Behavior Policies (Appendices B and C).
2. Students are responsible for following the Policy.
3. Although not expressly noted, cheating on exams or plagiarism on written assignments are grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.
4. Students are accountable for initiating or participating in inappropriate workplace conversations, including, but not limited to politics, religious beliefs, salaries, and other sensitive or confidential topics.
5. The Program Director will manage policy infractions, in consultation with the Medical Advisor and/or System Director, Pathology Services.
6. Severe infractions of the Policy may warrant consultation with Risk Management and, for 3+1 students, the student’s advisor at the affiliated college or university. See also Remediation and Termination Guidelines.

Identification

Students are issued a photo identification nametag for parking and identification while on the Hospital campus. If lost or damaged, there is a $25 charge for replacement. Return nametags following Program completion.

**Student Health**

Students show evidence of good health before beginning the Program, including medical information or history requested by the Program Medical Advisor or Employee Health Services. A health assessment, including urine drug screen and proof of immunization status, ensures that students meet essential requirements for admission to and completion of the Program. Students also receive information about a *recommended* immunization series for protection against Hepatitis B and a meningococcal vaccine.

Health Insurance

Students must maintain health insurance while in the program. Saint Luke’s MLS Program does not offer or provide health insurance. Most universities offer health insurance through student plans. Any hospitalization or medical expenses not covered by the student’s own policy will be the student’s expense.

Confidentiality of Health Information

Students receive training in Hospital policies relative to the privacy of Protected Health Information (PHI). Students must sign the Saint Luke’s Health System Pledge of Confidentiality for Protected Health Information before beginning clinical rotations.

Smoking

Saint Luke’s Health System does not permit smoking inside the Hospital or on the Hospital campus. This includes hospital grounds adjacent to the main campus. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Drug Free Workplace

The Medical Laboratory Science Program voluntarily participates in efforts to ensure a drug-free workplace. Students must pass a drug screen as a condition for admission. Saint Luke’s Hospital Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available at (816) 931-3073 for help with personal or substance abuse problems during the clinical year.

Liability Insurance

The Hospital’s liability insurance carrier covers students at no charge when performing procedures within the Hospital or on official Hospital business. Students can purchase additional coverage but is not required.

Attendance

Clinical course work occurs in an eleven-month program. Core attendance hours are 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Student attendance is mandatory. Daily workload, staffing, teaching, and patient care needs may occasionally require adjusted hours for best use of student and instructor time.

**Student Responsibilities for Attendance:**

* + Attend to personal matters during non-working hours whenever possible
	+ Report unplanned absences as soon as possible to a program official
	+ Seek prompt help for health or personal problems that could interfere with attendance
	+ Problem-solve minor inconveniences so they do not interfere with attendance
	+ Recognize that absences interfere with the learning process and make every attempt to minimize these occurrences.

**Program Responsibilities for Attendance:**

* Communicate expectations clearly and consistently
* Review student attendance records
* Communicate with students returning from medical or other absences to obtain pertinent information

Student Employment

MLS students are not considered Laboratory staff, and are not expected to perform service work during academic hours. Students perform tests on patient samples to the extent necessary to achieve learning outcomes and entry level competence. At such times, students are operating under the guidance and supervision of MLS staff.

Students are eligible to apply on a strictly voluntary basis for employment opportunities in the Hospital or Laboratory. These paid positions are supervised and are not under the influence or auspices of the MLS Program. Students in these positions are subject to SLH employee rules and regulations. The number of such opportunities varies each year and there are no requirements or guarantees of employment during the clinical year of the MLS Program.

Students may find it difficult to carry more than 10-15 hours of employment per week during their clinical rotation, as the study workload is heavy. Students must remain current with all Program responsibilities and assignments irrespective of employment.

**Academic Advanced Placement**

The Program will individually evaluate requests for advanced standing due to prior course or laboratory work beyond entry requirements. The Program reserves the right to deny advanced standing and the decision of program officials are final.

Academic Policies

Cognitive Skills

Cognitive (**thinking**) skills are evaluated by written or oral examination or quizzes. Grades are based on performance as demonstrated within scheduled time periods. Grades may be adjusted downward if work assignments or tests are not completed on time. All grading adheres to the following scale:

**92-100% A**

 **84-91% B**

 **75-83% C**

Test scores below 75% are Unsatisfactory.

Psychomotor Skills

Psychomotor (**doing**) learning is evaluated using task checklists, practical examinations, or observed performance demonstrations. Evaluations may be assigned points or graded as Pass/Fail. There may be time limits on practical exams.

Affective Skills

Affective (**being**) learning is evaluated regularly throughout the year. Student affective performance evaluations are completed at the end of each clinical rotation. Program officials may provide informal feedback or evaluations more frequently and at their discretion. Students may pass a clinical rotation with a single rating of Needs Improvement; their final rotation must have no ratings of Needs Improvement to complete the Program without remediation.

Affective evaluations may provide opportunity for counseling and professional development. These evaluations may be released to potential employers upon request by the student. Employers often consider performance in this domain to be of primary importance in predicting career success.

**Completion of the MLS Program**

Essential Requirements for Certificate of Completion

 Students admitted to the Program will progress toward successful completion by:

* continuing to meet minimum health criteria
* earning grades of C or better in each clinical course (cognitive skills)
* earning Pass grades on Psychomotor Domain evaluations in each clinical course (psychomotor skills)
* earning no more than three Needs Improvement ratings on clinical rotation evaluations (affective skills)
* adhering to Program and SLHS policies and regulations

Conferring a Certificate of Completion will in no way depend on the student’s ability to pass state or national licensure or certification examinations.

MLS Program Final Comprehensive Examination

In addition to meeting Essential Requirements, students must attain a grade of at least 70% on the final comprehensive examination. If a student passes all clinical courses but is unable to pass the comprehensive examination, remediation and one additional examination will be provided. This may or may not delay completion of the Program.

Degree Seeking (3+1) Students

Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program awards a Certificate of Completion when degree requirements are complete. University registrars and MLS advisors receive a final transcript for thirty semester hours of clinical course work. College/university guidelines govern the decision to assign clinical course transfer credit hours or Program grades as noted in the institution’s catalog. Conferring of a degree is in no way dependent on the student’s ability to pass state or national licensure or certification examinations.

Non-Degree Seeking (4+1) Students

Saint Luke’s Hospital Medical Laboratory Science Program awards a Certificate of Completion to Program graduates who have earned a degree prior to Program entry and are not seeking a second baccalaureate degree. The student will receive an official transcript.

National Certification

Program graduates that have met certification requirements are eligible to challenge nationally recognized board examinations. The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification examination certifies Medical Laboratory Scientists as MLS(ASCP). Students are responsible for submitting necessary materials to obtain certification; SLH will provide the ASCP MLS exam fee using the student’s non-refundable Program deposit. Students should access the ASCP website for specific and current information. The Program strongly encourages National certification. Medical Laboratory Scientist employment usually requires National certification but is not a requirement of the Program or any college/university.

**Program Closure Contingency Plan**

In the event of Program closure or natural disaster, the Program Director or a designee will notify the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) within 30 days of such occurrence. Plans to complete clinical studies for affected students include:

**Program Closure**

If Saint Luke’s Hospital decides to discontinue the MLS Program, all students enrolled in or accepted to the MLS Program will complete their training before Program closure.

**Natural Disaster**

In the event of a natural disaster, such that physical and/or laboratory facilities of Saint Luke’s Hospital are unavailable for instruction, MLS Program officials will evaluate ways to re-establish the program as quickly as possible utilizing other Saint Luke’s Health System Laboratories. Alternatively, the Program will contact other accredited MLS programs in the state that may have capacity to accept students whose clinical rotations are incomplete. Program directors in the Kansas City, Springfield, and Joplin areas are prepared for such an event, and have agreed to collaborate for the benefit of enrolled students who need to complete clinical studies. Planned completion dates will be adhered to unless that is not possible.