Medical Laboratory Technology, A.S.

Begin Campus: Hazleton, Schuylkill
End Campus: Hazleton

Program Description
This two-calendar-year Medical Laboratory Technology major (four semesters, two summer sessions) is designed to provide the necessary general and technical training for hospital personnel between the level of the medical laboratory technician (certificate program) and the medical technologist (baccalaureate program). The course of study includes one year of intensive clinical experience at an affiliated hospital and the theoretical background necessary for the clinical procedures performed by the certified medical laboratory technician (associate degree program). Upon completion of program requirements, the student receives the associate degree and is eligible to sit for examinations leading to certification and registry as a medical laboratory technician.

The Medical Laboratory Technology Program at Penn State Hazleton is fully accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS,
5600 N. River Rd, Suite 720,
Rosemont, IL 60018-5119,
Phone 773-714-8880
Website: http://www.naacls.org

Graduates of this accredited MLT program are eligible to take national certification examinations such as the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification exam, to become certified as an MLT (ASCP).

What is Medical Laboratory Technology?
A Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) works with a team of pathologists, technologists, and technicians to analyze patient samples to provide information to the patient's physician to detect illness, enable treatment, and ensure that the treatment will benefit the patient. The MLT works in all areas of the medical laboratory such as microbiology, chemistry, hematology, and transfusion services. MLTs are qualified to perform routine tests as well as more complex procedures including analyzing blood for chemical components, typing blood to ensure safe transfusion, and identifying bacteria and other microorganisms. MLTs also prepare specimens for examination, count cells, and look for abnormal cells in blood and body fluids. They use microscopes, cell counters, and automated equipment and computerized instruments to test specimens. After testing and verifying the results, they relay the results to physicians.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY (http://hazleton.psu.edu/associate-science-medical-laboratory-technology/)

You Might Like This Program If...
You might like this major if you are interested in science and enjoy working in a laboratory setting. MLTs are problem solvers and are accurate and reliable. They want to help patients in a medical setting but prefer not to have direct patient contact. They enjoy working with their hands and using technical instruments. Their work is interesting, challenging, and requires a love of life-long learning.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE TO STUDY MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY (https://www.ascp.org/content/careers/)

Entrance to Major
Students must request a Dean's review to change to this Associate degree after admission to the University.

Additional Information
Before beginning the clinical experience rotations at hospitals, students must meet the requirements listed at: http://hazleton.psu.edu/program-clinical-prerequisites (http://hazleton.psu.edu/program-clinical-prerequisites/).

Degree Requirements
For the Associate in Science degree in Medical Laboratory Technology, a minimum of 72 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>63-65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12 of the 21 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GWS courses; 6 credits of GN courses; 3 credits of GQ courses.

Scheduling of courses in summer session depends on campus location.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all associate degree students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/associate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
- Quantification (GQ): 3 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 3 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 3 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 3 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 3 credits

Note: Up to six credits of Inter-domain courses may be used for any Knowledge Domain requirement, but when a course is used to satisfy
more than one requirement, the credits from the course can be counted only once.

**Foundations or Knowledge Domains**
- Any General Education course: 3 credits

**University Degree Requirements**

**Cultures Requirement**
3 credits of United States (US) or International (IL) cultures coursework are required and may satisfy other requirements.

**Writing Across the Curriculum**
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

**Total Minimum Credits**
A minimum of 60 degree credits must be earned for a associates degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 60 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

**Quality of Work**
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

**Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition**
Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

**Requirements for the Major**
To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44. The requirements for some programs may exceed 60 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

**Prescribed Courses:**
- Effective Speech
- Chemical Principles I
- Experimental Chemistry I
- Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry I
- Rhetoric and Composition
- Introductory Microbiology
- Introductory Microbiology Laboratory
- Introductory Medical Laboratory Technology
- Clinical Chemistry Practicum
- Hematology Practicum
- Immunohematology Practicum

**Additional Courses:**
- Computer Fundamentals and Applications
- Microcomputer Applications in Business
- Introduction to Biostatistics

**Academic Advising**
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

**Hazleton**
Lori Yeager, MLS (ASCP)
Program Coordinator and Lecturer, Medical Laboratory Technology Program
Kostos 120
Hazleton, PA 18202
570-450-3054
lay5071@psu.edu

**Suggested Academic Plan**
The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2021-22 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate
Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Medical Laboratory Technology, A.S. at Hazleton Campus

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any affiliated sites. Must earn C or better for graduation.

Academic Requirements

Academic Plans may be taken in summer session 1. A minimum of 72 credits is required for graduation.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30H†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MICRB 201</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CHEM 202‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 110‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MICRB 202</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>CAS 100‡‡</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 161‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOL 163‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MICRB 150‡, 3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 162‡</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>BIOL 164‡</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 108 (optional)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CHEM 111</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GQ)‡†</td>
<td>3-4 MIS 103</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSU 8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>15-16</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICRB 151A‡*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>MICRB 151C‡*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>General Education Course 4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICRB 151B‡*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>MICRB 151E‡*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>General Education Course 4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICRB 151D‡*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>MICRB 151G‡*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICRB 151E‡*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>MICRB 151W‡*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits 74-75</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
‡ Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

1 BIOL 110 and BIOL 240 may be taken in place of BIOL 161, BIOL 162, BIOL 163, BIOL 164.
2 MICRB 150, MICRB 151 courses include clinical experience at affiliated sites. Must earn C or better for graduation.
3 These courses should be taken in summer session 1.
4 These courses should be taken in summer session 2.

Career Paths

The two-year MLT program includes a two-semester clinical practicum experience in affiliated hospital laboratories. The MLT learns the most current laboratory techniques in a real laboratory setting.

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

If an MLT graduate chooses to continue his/her education, the first year’s courses will transfer to a major in Microbiology, Medical Laboratory Science, Biology or related disciplines. Once an MLT graduate passes a national certification exam and is certified as MLT, earns a BS or BA in any major, and works in a hospital laboratory for at least two years, they can qualify to take a Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) certification exam. Bachelor’s degrees earned prior to MLT certification count toward the MLS qualification. This opens the door to careers as an educator, laboratory manager and specialist positions.

Professional Resources

• American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (http://www.ascls.org/)
• American Society for Clinical Pathology (https://www.ascp.org/content/)
• American Association of Clinical Chemistry (https://www.aacc.org/global-health-outreach/lab-tests-online/)
• American Society of Hematology (http://www.hematology.org/)
• American Association of Blood Banks (http://www.aabb.org)
• National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (http://www.naacs.org)
• American Society for Microbiology (https://asm.org/)
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (https://www.cdc.gov/)

Accreditation
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Penn State Hazleton program outcome measures are available at http://hazleton.psu.edu/program-outcome-measures (http://hazleton.psu.edu/program-outcome-measures/)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL ACCREDITING AGENCY FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES (http://www.naacls.org)

Professional Licensure/Certification
Many U.S. states and territories require professional licensure/certification to be employed. If you plan to pursue employment in a licensed profession after completing this program, please visit the Professional Licensure/Certification Disclosures by State (https://psu.edu/state-licensure-disclosures/) interactive map.

Contact
Hazleton
Kostos 120
Hazleton, PA 18202
570-450-3054
lay5071@psu.edu

https://hazleton.psu.edu/associate-science-medical-laboratory-technology (https://hazleton.psu.edu/associate-science-medical-laboratory-technology/)