

University of Tennessee Medical Center Medical Laboratory Science Program Details and Requirements for Acceptance

University of Tennessee Students Obtaining a B.S. in MLS (3+1 option)

Before beginning the clinical year, students must successfully meet the following requirements:

1. Students must have fulfilled all requirements of the University of Tennessee, including electives and required courses.
2. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or above.
3. Students must also have a cumulative Science GPA of at least 2.75. In addition, students must have earned a “C” or better in each of the required chemistry, biology, and math courses. However, a review of the entire student record will be utilized in assessing the student’s academic ability.
4. University of Tennessee students (3 + 1) are given preference over 4+1 students who have already obtained a Bachelor’s degree, as well as students from other institutions, since the clinical year is required for them to graduate with their MLS degree.

Program Details

1. Cost of the program for University of Tennessee 3+1 students is the current University of Tennessee tuition. All tuition will be paid directly to the University of Tennessee Knoxville. This will be for 3 semesters: Spring, Summer, and Fall. A Laboratory fee of \$750 per semester will be assessed by the medical center to pay for expenses – and will be payable directly to the medical center in three increments.
2. Cost of books is not included in the tuition. Students will be provided a list of required texts in the Fall before the program starts in January so they can obtain the required books for the program.
3. All financial aid will be obtained through the University of Tennessee.
4. The State of Tennessee requires that all students have health insurance. Students in the program must show proof of health insurance on the first day of classes. The University of Tennessee has a health insurance option (see UTK website), or the program director can provide a short list of options. The student has the responsibility to obtain and show proof of health insurance during the program.
5. If you are accepted into the program, you will be required to obtain a background check and have the results sent to the program office. The cost is approximately \$50.00.
6. All students must obtain a health physical within 60 days of the start of the program. If you are accepted, you will be required to obtain a physical and send results to the program director at least one week before the first class session.
7. Students must submit to the program director a list of immunizations and must obtain the hepatitis B immunization series before beginning the program.
8. The program begins the first week of January and ends mid-December. Student holidays are: Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, and two days at Thanksgiving. One week vacation is also scheduled, usually the first week of June. Any other days missed for any reason must be made up. Make up days are usually scheduled on weekends.
9. During lectures, student hours are 8 am to 4 pm. During the clinical year, students are at the medical center from 6:30 am until 3:00 pm every day, Monday through Friday. While in the microbiology rotation, students spend three weeks on second shift, 2 pm to 10:30 pm, two weeks on mid-shift, 10 am to 6:30p, and two weeks on dayshift, 6 am to 2:30 pm. Students may be required to stay later some days for meetings or special lectures. Students must be at their assigned laboratory sections at the assigned time. There is no grace period for tardiness.
10. The program is very fast-paced and requires an extensive amount of the students’ time in order to learn and apply the concepts presented. Be prepared to study every night! Some students have part-time jobs, but find working difficult to impossible to juggle more than 20 hours / week while attending school.
11. A graduation ceremony is held the last day of the program in which students will receive a certificate of completion. After completion of the program, students are eligible to sit for the national board examination and after passing the examination, are eligible to apply for state licensure. Receiving the certificate of completion is not contingent upon passing the national board examination.