

UT MEDICAL CENTER MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROGRAM
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the Medical Laboratory Science Program is competitive and subject to:

- Admission to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (3 + 1 students only)
- Formal application for admission to the UT Medical Center MLS program
 - Application includes an essay addressing questions on the application
 - Signed statement that the student can fulfill the essential functions required for admission into the program
 - Submission of \$25.00 nonrefundable application fee
- Competitive GPA with a minimum of 2.5 required for consideration.
- Minimum GPA of 2.5 in science coursework. However, a review of the entire student record will be utilized in assessing the student's academic ability.
- Completion of prerequisite courses required for the program
- Three letters of recommendation (two science and one non-science)
 - With the approval of the program director, one letter may be from an employer
- Personal interview

All students who are admitted into the program must complete the following requirements before they can begin the program:

- Acceptable physical examination
- Acceptable background check
- Document that they can perform essential functions of a medical laboratory scientist
- Document understanding of and willingness to abide by student handbook guidelines
- Colorblindness test

All applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit TOEFL scores. The required minimum acceptable scores on the exam are:

- Paper-based TOEFL: 550 with a minimum of 50 in each section
- Computer-based TOEFL: 213
- Internet-based TOEFL: 79

Applicants who have not attended a university in the past seven years will be asked to update their academic preparation in the prerequisite courses.

If there are more qualified applicants than there is space available, acceptance is based on the following:

- If two students have the same admission scores, the 3 + 1 student from the University of Tennessee shall have preference over 4 + 1 student.
- If there is space in the program, students from the University of Tennessee who meet ALL minimum criteria for admission shall be admitted at the discretion of the admissions committee. A University of Tennessee student who meets all qualifications and who is deemed by the admissions committee to be a qualified candidate shall not be denied admission if there is space in the program, in order to provide access for the student to complete his or her degree.

- Qualified students will be ranked in order, based upon their status as a 3 + 1 or 4 + 1 student and total score (determined by GPA, letters of recommendation, interview, and other admission criteria – see “Admissions Committee” section of this policy).
- The interview committee considers all factors including academic traits as well as nonacademic traits such as initiative, self-motivation, dependability, communication skills, reasoning ability, and leadership potential.
- **Final decision for admission is at the discretion of the admissions committee. The committee reserves the right to deny admission if a candidate displays poor understanding of the program, an unprofessional attitude, or another characteristic that prevents success in the program regardless of the student’s academic record. The committee must document the reason for denial and must provide the reason to the applicant, if requested to do so.**
- Admission to the University of Tennessee and completion of a pre-medical laboratory science program in the College of Arts and Sciences does not assure admission to the Medical Laboratory Science Program. Students must be deemed qualified by the Admissions Committee to be accepted.

The University of Tennessee and UHS do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status in provision of education programs and services. Policies are in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION:

3 + 1 PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE – KNOXVILLE:

Based on the 2016 Curriculum

FRESHMAN

	<u>HOURS CREDIT</u>
English 101-102 (see Note 1)	6
Chemistry 120-130 (see Note 1)	8
Biology 150, 160, 159 (see Note 2)	8
Foreign Language - Intermediate Level (see Note 3)	6
Mathematics (see Note 4)	<u>6-8</u>
	34

SOPHOMORE

Chemistry 350, 360, 369	8
Biology 240	4
Biology 220, 229	4
Arts & Humanities (one course from List A)	3
Non-U.S. History	6
Global Challenges (if Biology 150 not taken)	3
Communication Studies 210 or 240	<u>3</u>
	28-31

JUNIOR

Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology 230	5
Microbiology 420, 429 (offered spring only)	5
Microbiology 330 (offered fall only)	3
Social Sciences (see Note 5)	6

Arts & Humanities (one course from List A or B)	3
Connections (see Note 6)	9
Communicating through Writing course	<u>0-3</u>
	31-34

TOTAL: 90 semester hours (minimum)

SENIOR

Medical Laboratory Science course of study at UT Medical Center in Knoxville (12 month program)

TOTAL: 120 semester hours (minimum)

Note 1: Or equivalent honors courses.

Note 2: Students who have previously completed Biology 101 and 102 for their lab science requirement may substitute these two courses for Biology 150.

Note 3: This requirement assumes a student has had enough language background in high school to begin the intermediate language sequence at UTK.

Note 4: One of the following math sequences is required for pre-medical laboratory science students: Math 115-125, Math 123-125, Math 141-142, Math 151-152, Math 141-115. Math placement depends on high school courses and grades, ACT scores, and BA/BS requirements.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION:

4 + 1 PROGRAM, FOR APPLICANTS WITH A BACHELOR OR MASTER DEGREE

- BS degree in a biological science or chemistry
- Biology Requirements: 16 semester hours that must include:
 - One (1) Microbiology class with laboratory
 - One (1) Immunology class
 - Human anatomy and/or physiology
 - Medical Microbiology and Genetics are recommended but are not required.
- Chemistry Requirements: 16 semester hours that include general chemistry and either organic or biochemistry.
 - Analytical chemistry and physics are recommended but are not required.
- Math Requirement: 1 semester of math at a level of college algebra or higher.
 - Statistics is highly recommended but is not required.
- GPA of 2.5 or above (overall GPA)
- Science GPA of 2.5 or above. However, a review of the entire student record will be utilized in assessing the student's academic ability.
- A "C" or better must be obtained in each required chemistry, biology, and math courses.

Note: All required college courses must be acceptable toward a major in those fields of study. Survey, audit, remedial, college level examination program, advanced placement, and clinical courses do not qualify as fulfillment of the chemistry, biology, or mathematics requirements.

STUDENT SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. Students planning to apply for the clinical year of the Medical Laboratory Science curriculum at UTMCK should become familiar with the activities and essential functions of the clinical laboratory and the role of medical laboratory scientists, in order to provide themselves with a basis for a suitable and realistic career choice. This information can be gained by visits to laboratories (by appointment), acquaintance with practitioners, or work experience.
2. Other criteria for student selection which will be obtained from personal interview, formal applications, and letters of recommendation include evidence of the following traits and abilities:

Cognitive Domain:

1. Academic achievement, overall and in the sciences. Transcript evaluation may include looking for patterns of improvement.
2. Intellectual skills, abilities to transfer knowledge of principles to new situations, critical thinking skills to facilitate problem solving, and evidence of self-directed learning
3. Ability in oral and written expression

Affective Domain:

1. Sense of responsibility and dependability
2. Maturity and emotional stability
3. Initiative and self-motivation, willingness to go beyond specific assignments, and recognition and utilization of opportunities to increase learning
4. Courtesy and consideration in personal relationships
5. Honesty

Psychomotor Domain:

1. Manual dexterity
2. Ability to use equipment correctly and safely
3. Ability to learn to operate new equipment with minimal instruction

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE SELECTION PROCEDURE:

The UT Medical Center Medical Laboratory Science Program utilizes an Admissions Committee.

Function of the committee:

1. Assess value of interview data
2. Interview prospective MLS students and select candidates for incoming class

Objectives of the committee:

1. Obtain information on which to estimate qualifications of the candidates
 - Interest in, knowledge of, and desire to become a professional in the profession
 - Professional conduct and other behavioral traits as noted on the interview form
2. Determine any mitigating circumstances relative to academic status and/or activities

Organization of the committee:

Membership will be comprised of three to four clinical instructors and laboratory administrators selected from available program faculty, clinical instructors, and administration. A current student may also assist.

Application Review and Interview Scheduling Procedure:

1. The deadline for submitting applications and supporting documentation is May 15 of the year prior to the class for which the student is applying. Transcripts, if not yet available, should be sent as soon as they become available by the university.
2. If the class is not filled, applications may be considered after the deadline. In some cases where there are multiple late applicants for open positions, additional interview session(s) may be scheduled for late applicants.
3. The program director will organize the application data on each applicant for review by the committee prior to the interview ensuring that the information is complete. Only the applicants who meet minimum criteria will be scheduled for interviews.
4. The program director will chair the final application review and student selection meeting.
5. Prior to the interview, the applicant file will contain the following:
 - a. Completed application
 - b. Essay
 - c. Signed documentation of ability to fulfill essential functions
 - d. Official academic transcripts from colleges and universities
 - e. At least three recommendations, two from science faculty and one from non-science faculty. With program director approval, an employer reference may substitute for one faculty reference.
 - f. A form listing required science courses, grades, and science grade point average.
 - g. TOEFL scores, if required
 - h. A non-refundable application fee of \$25.00.
6. The program director will schedule interviews. A letter of invitation will be sent to each qualifying applicant providing the interview date(s) and outlining the interview process.
7. Student interviews will be scheduled to create the least disruption of the admissions committee members' schedules.

Interview Scheduling Process:

1. The admissions committee uses an objective point system to select students from the qualified applicant pool.
2. All candidates are asked the same questions in the same manner by the same committee members, if possible. Additional questions may be asked based upon a student's references, background, or grades.
3. Each interviewer will complete an interview rating sheet (see attachment) for each applicant immediately following the interview. Each interviewer's score sheet will be tallied. All the scores sheets for each applicant will be added together and an average score obtained for the interview portion. In the point system for rating candidates, the combined interview ratings are assigned a value of 30%.
4. Following the interviews, the admissions committee will select the incoming class.

5. To the extent possible, the admissions committee will be objective in selection of applicants for the class.

STUDENT NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE:

1. Each student who interviewed will be sent a letter either of acceptance or denial of admission into the program. Students who interview in the June admissions process will be notified by July 15.
2. Students must respond in writing accepting or declining admission by July 31.
3. Students who accept must submit a \$250.00 non-refundable acceptance fee to secure their positions in the program.
4. Acceptance is provisional based upon the following:
 - a. The student responds before the deadline for acceptance of the offered position. Students are instructed to send a letter indicating that they accept or decline the position and to submit the non-refundable acceptance fee (\$250.00). If a student does not respond by the deadline, two attempts are made to contact the student. If there is no response, the position may be offered to an alternate candidate.
 - b. Satisfactory completion of any courses required for admission into the program. Students must provide transcripts showing successful (grade of C or higher) completion of those courses before they may begin the program.
 - c. Completion of immunizations and health physical requirements. Documentation must be provided on or before the first day of class.
 - d. Successful completion of a criminal background check.
 - e. Signed documentation that the student will abide by all program guidelines.
5. If any student declines admission into the program, alternate candidates are reviewed, and letters of acceptance are sent to them in the order in which they are ranked by the Admissions Committee.

SELECTION OF ALTERNATES:

1. If there are more qualified applicants than there are open positions (maximum of twelve), students may be selected for the alternate list.
2. These students will be notified of their alternate status when initial notification of status is sent.
 - a. If a student who is accepted into the program declines or cancels, the alternate will be notified in writing of his or her acceptance into the program. The alternate candidate must then accept the position and fulfill all requirements for admission into the program.
 - b. Details for notification are described in "Student notification of acceptance" on the previous page.