

Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. How long will it take to complete the program?** The HACC MLT program is designed to be completed in 6 semesters provided that students do not need developmental Math or English courses. Students may take general education courses part-time or full-time. However, once students begin MLT classes in Fall semester, they are required to complete the 5 semesters of MLT coursework as full-time students. Students must follow a Fall-Spring-Summer-Fall-Spring progression once you begin MLT courses. Fall I, Spring I, and Summer II semester MLT courses on the Harrisburg campus are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Class times may be daytime as well as in the evening. Clinical rotations held in Fall II and Spring II semesters will be 4 days per week (no weekends) and will be 7 hours per day during daytime hours.
- 2. Can I do this program totally on line?** General education courses are available totally on line, but all MLT courses require at least half of the class time spent on-campus for labs/in-person instruction or require a clinical site rotation.
- 3. Where are MLT classes held?** MLT classes are offered only on the Harrisburg campus Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.
- 4. Will I have a Clinical Rotation?** Students spend their final two semesters (Fall II and Spring II) of the MLT program in Clinical Rotations. Clinical Rotations for the MLT program are in laboratories at accredited hospitals with affiliation agreements with HACC in Central Pennsylvania. Students are assigned to a hospital by the Program Director.
- 5. Where are the clinical rotation hospitals located?** Clinical sites are located throughout the Central Pennsylvania area and could be as much as 50 – 70 miles away from the student's home. It is the student's responsibility to have transportation to the clinical rotation site and be available at the time designated by the rotation site. Students will need to schedule work and personal responsibilities around the hours set by the Program Director and the clinical rotation site.
- 6. What science and math requirements are required to graduate?** BIOL 111 or BIOL 121, CHEM 100, CHEM 101 or CHEM 102, and any 100 level MATH course that meets the college's Math class requirements.
- 7. What GPA do I need to start Fall I MLT Classes?** Students must have a 2.5 GPA in order to take Fall I MLT courses (MLT 100, 120, and MLT 122). Students with a GPA lower than 2.5 will require a meeting with the Program Director and a written action plan (created by the student) detailing how the student's GPA will be addressed. After the meeting with the Program Director, special permission to take MLT courses MAY be granted. Students who do not have a GPA of 2.5 or greater by end of Fall semester will be excluded from Spring I MLT courses.
- 8. What general education courses do I need to have completed prior to starting Fall I MLT Classes?** Students should have completed BIOL 111 and ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better prior to the Fall I semester. Students must also be ready to take CHEM 100 in the Fall I semester; therefore, students must have completed all developmental math courses prior to the Fall I semester (if necessary). Students MAY be allowed to take Fall I MLT courses if they have not completed BIOL 111 and ENGL 101 but are eligible to take these courses. These courses MUST be completed in the Fall I semester. Taking these two courses in the Fall I semester will be a very difficult task as the student will have a credit load of 13 credits with the courses required by the program: MLT 100 (3 cr.), MLT 120 (4 cr), MLT 122 (3 cr), CHEM 100 (3 cr).

9. **What is the grading system in the MLT Program?** The following is the grading scale for all MLT courses – Please note that the MLT program does NOT round up grades. In order to receive an “A” grade, the student MUST achieve at least a 92%. A grade of 91.7% will result in a “B” grade.

A - 92 to 100%

B - 83 to 91.9%

C - 75 to 82.9%

D - 66 to 74.9%

F – 65% below

The final grade for the course is determined by totaling the final grades of the lecture component and the laboratory component of each course. The student must receive 75% in BOTH didactic and laboratory in order to pass the class and progress through the MLT program. Failure to do so will result in a grade of “D” unless the final percentage is 65 or less, which will result in the grade of “F”. Any student receiving a grade of “D” or “F” is required to meet with the Program Director.

Students are required to achieve a minimum of 75% on each examination in EACH MLT course to avoid retesting. All examinations with percent scores below 75% require retesting and a passing score of 75% on the retest is required. A student cannot increase his/her examination grade through retesting. Retesting is in place only to ensure that the student has mastered the material. All retesting is at the discretion of the instructor regarding type (oral, written, etc) of exam given.

10. **How many students are in the MLT program?** Typically, 20 – 24 students start MLT classes in the Fall I semester. By the end of Fall semester approximately 14 – 18 students successfully complete the Fall I MLT courses. Program capacity is dependent upon availability of clinical sites. Generally, a Clinical Rotation Class is composed of 14 – 16 students. However, these numbers can vary from year to year.
11. **What is the job market for MLTs?** Worldwide, hospital laboratories are in desperate need of MLTs. Most HACC students are hired by the Hospital Laboratory where the student completed their clinical rotations.
12. **What is Phlebotomy?** Phlebotomy is the practice of drawing blood samples from patients (venipuncture). It is a requirement of the MLT program. All students must participate in phlebotomy as part of their MLT 100 course. In that course, students first learn and practice phlebotomy on artificial training arms. After successfully performing phlebotomy on the training arms, the students move to venipuncture on each other. This process helps students improve their venipuncture technique on a real person, and also prepares students for interactions with patients such as performing verbal patient identification processes.
13. **I already work as a phlebotomist. Do I have to take MLT 100?** Yes. MLT 100 encompasses much more than phlebotomy. In addition, all students must be assessed for their phlebotomy skills as this is a requirement of the MLT program’s accreditation. Students who already work as phlebotomists will be able to test out of some of the phlebotomy sections of the course.
14. **If I successfully pass all Fall I and Spring I MLT courses, what are the additional requirements needed to start a clinical site rotation?** As provided in the MLT documentation packet, students are required to complete three Background Checks, a Physical with their physician (vaccinations must be current), and a Urine Drug Screening test. Information on completing these items is provided in the Summer II semester of the program at a meeting that is held with the class.
15. **What if I have a criminal record?** Please review the information in the Prohibitive Offense procedure found here... <https://www.hacc.edu/ProgramsandCourses/Programs/HealthCareers/upload/HC-Prohibitive-Offense-Procedure.pdf> Students with questions should schedule a meeting with the Program Director to discuss their specific situation.

16. **Are yearly Influenza vaccinations a requirement of the program?** Many of our hospital clinical partners require yearly influenza vaccinations for students to be placed in their labs for two semesters. Therefore, if a student is placed at a facility which requires influenza vaccination, the student will need to either comply or request a different clinical location...which is not guaranteed. It may not be possible to place students without documentation of current influenza vaccination with our hospital partners.
17. **Do I need a COVID vaccine?** At this time, clinical sites are requiring proof of vaccination or a request for exemption. HACC has a process in place to request exemptions; however, the clinical site is not required to grant exemptions regardless of HACC's position on a student's request for an exemption. Please review the information found here as the COVID situation could change.
<https://www.hacc.edu/ProgramsandCourses/Programs/HealthCareers/covid-19-immunization-requirements-of-clinical-facilities.cfm>
18. **How much time should I expect to study for each hour in class?** Most sources recommend that a typical college student should study at least 2 hours outside of class per hour spent in class each week studying for that course. An example would be MLT 120 which meets as follows: Lecture = 2 hours and 20 minutes/week. Lab = 2 hours and 10 minutes each week. This is a total of 4 hours and 30 minutes of class time per week. That means that you would spend 10 hours of time outside of class studying for this course per week. However, this is a guideline. From "**Questioning the Two-Hour Rule for Studying**" by Lolita Paff, PhD. Found at <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-and-learning/questioning-two-hour-rule-studying/> and downloaded by G. Laughman on 9/1/21.

Shift focus from time to task. *I recognize that telling students to study doesn't mean it will happen. I'm also not suggesting everything students do outside of class should be graded. But instead of telling students how long to study, emphasize mastery. Provide examples of active learning strategies so they can use their time more effectively. In addition to active reading assignments and graded homework, the following activities promote engagement and go beyond students' typical study strategies, such as creating note cards or "looking over" their notes.*

- *Rewrite Notes in Your Own Words: Rewrites are an opportunity to "replay" what was said and done in class. Be intentional about asking students if they have questions about what they've written in their notes. Occasionally set aside a couple of minutes in class for students to compare notes and seek clarification.*
- *Concept Maps: Students can use note cards to accomplish deep understanding if they try to connect single pieces of information on each card to other concepts through a concept map. These can be drawn by hand or created with software. Emphasize substance over form. The purpose is to make connections and see the content from different perspectives (Berry & Chew, 2008).*
- *Respond to Learning Reflection Prompts: How is X related to Y? What other information would you want to find? What was the most challenging topic in the chapter? How does this material connect to what you learned before? Reflection prompts promote connections across topics, helping students see content more holistically. Incorporate reflection in graded work as appropriate. Reflection assignments can be independent and ungraded or incorporated in class or online.*

So, how long will each student need to study for MLT 120 or any MLT course? Most students tell me that they did not anticipate the amount of work outside of class that they would be required to complete for each MLT course. The MLT program is a serious time commitment and students need to think about how they will juggle their lives, jobs (if applicable), and school.

19. **Will I need to wear a uniform?** Students taking MLT courses in Fall I are required to wear a uniform. Students are required to purchase HACC MLT scrub tops from the Bookstore. These are maroon tops with a HACC logo embroidered on them. Student must wear black pants which may be scrub pants or any type of long black pants except jeans. Pants may be purchased at the bookstore or from any retail or thrift store.

20. **Can I transfer courses from another college into HACC?** While most general education courses will transfer to HACC, the college will not transfer ANY outside MLT/MLS courses from ANY college. Why? HACC cannot guarantee that students from other colleges have been educated in student labs to the standard that HACC uses in the MLT program. Students wishing to transfer credits to HACC should review this website...
<https://www.hacc.edu/Admissions/transfer-student-information.cfm>

21. **How do I make an appointment with the MLT Program Advisor as required for MLT course registration?** Please make an advising appointment by contacting Frank Zawisky. Frank's contact information is **Phone:** (717)780-1137 or **Email:** fazawisk@hacc.edu