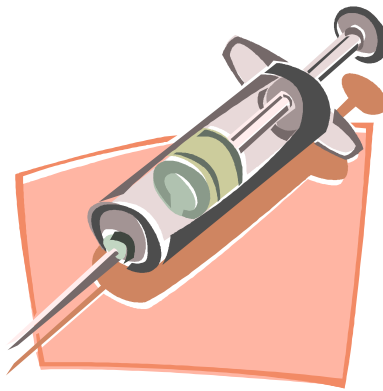


J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College



School of Nursing and Allied Health

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN



Information Package

**Beginning Applicants and Transfer Students from
other Programs and Colleges**

To the Prospective Student -

The medical laboratory is an endlessly fascinating place. Our curriculum at J. Sargeant Reynolds will prepare you for employment as a nationally certified Medical Laboratory Technician, with excellent opportunities for placement in hospital and clinic laboratories, physician offices, health department and industrial medical laboratories as well. Salaries are very attractive, the working environment challenging and enjoyable, and career advancement available.

I began my own travel through this industry over 20 years ago when I completed my internship in a large metropolitan hospital in Houston, Texas. Since then I have been fortunate enough to encounter numerous career broadening opportunities which facilitated movement up through the various technical sections, into and through laboratory management, to blood center experience and finally to the educational field.

In short, I have viewed this industry from many different perspectives, all of which have been interesting, challenging, and have provided a worthwhile income.

If you enjoy science and are contemplating a career anywhere in the medical industry, know that medical technology is an excellent place to make that initial commitment.

Please give me a call at (804) 523-5772 to find out more - Your future as a medical professional deserves a positive beginning.

Sincerely,

Becky M. Clark, M. Ed., MT (ASCP)
Program Director

Medical Laboratory Program - Associate in Applied Science

The Medical Laboratory Technology Program is open to qualified men and women who provide evidence of interest, aptitude, and motivation in the areas of medical laboratory science.

In addition to those requirements stated in the *College Catalog* entry level competencies include: a) Evidence of an overall 2.0 (“C”) grade point average in all courses attempted at JSRCC within the past two years; b) Demonstration of satisfactory performance in the lecture and laboratory portions of all general science courses attempted at the *College* (i.e., Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc.), or evidence of having performed acceptably in similar courses at other institutions attended, including High School; c) Proven ability to communicate effectively as evidenced by English placement testing at the 03 level or higher (see *Application Process* below); and d) Proven ability in Mathematics and Chemistry by placement testing at the 03 level or higher, (see *Application Process* below). In the event that one or more of the above competencies are deficient, remedial courses of instruction will be made available, as consistent with *College* policy.

To complete the Program, the student must successfully progress through a series of didactic courses (listed in the Curriculum Outline), as well as a supervised clinical education assignment (Coordinated Practice) in a community hospital laboratory, clinical laboratory, blood bank, and/or other selected biomedical laboratories. Typically, this requires completion of 70 credit hours over a period of five consecutive semesters if pursued on a full-time basis. The fifth semester will consist of the aforementioned Coordinated Practice assignment. All clinical training will be scheduled in facilities in the Richmond area if possible, depending on space availability. In the event a clinical training assignment is not available, the student will be placed on a waiting list (see *MLT Student Survival Guide* for details – available in the Program Head’s office, room 547).

The faculty (including clinical supervisors) will coordinate the total learning experience and evaluate the student's aptitudes and attitudes for a medical laboratory career. All courses with MDL prefix are normally completed before entering Coordinated Practice (which includes MDL 190, MDL 282, and MDL 290). Since courses are integrated into a comprehensive training curriculum, certain offerings must be completed in a scheduled sequence. Students should also be aware that certain courses are offered only once per year. Additionally, certain courses may only be available during the summer semester period. Therefore, attendance of at least one summer session may be required in order to complete the Program.

Students are encouraged to have appropriate health insurance, which is not provided by the *College*. Students may enroll in the *Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan*, designed by the Virginia Community College System. All students entering the MDL Program must arrange for their own routine physical examination (forms available in the Program Head's office), before entering clinical training.

The MDL Program is in full compliance with *The Americans with Disabilities Act*. Students are eligible to receive reasonable accommodations for physical handicaps, emotional illness, or medically diagnosed learning disabilities if these are documented (please contact The Office of Student Accommodations at 523-5627 or 523-5289 for details). The student is encouraged, but not required to identify any handicap, which might suggest special accommodations. Identification of a disability will not affect a candidate's acceptance into the MDL Program. ***However, all candidates should be aware that prospective employers of MDL graduates may have their own special requirements for employment. In this regard, successful completion of the Program may not ensure eligibility for employment.***

In the interest of safety, candidates for admission may be requested to demonstrate certain basic physical maneuvers including:

- a. Lifting a 20 pound weight from the ground to waist level
- b. Routine bending and stooping
- c. Average manual dexterity
- d. Basic visual and auditory acuity
- e. Ability to distinguish colors

Any candidate may decline to perform the above maneuvers. However, these types of movements are typically necessary for performance of routine laboratory procedures. The inability to perform such maneuvers will not preclude a candidate for acceptance into, or graduation from the Program.

Each student will be responsible for his/her own transportation to all Program classes, laboratories, training assignments, and related activities. Additionally, students will be responsible for securing any required uniforms, meals, and/or lodging, if necessary.

Those with prior training or certification who require re-training or Able Testing should consult the Program Head. Each request will be considered on an individual basis.

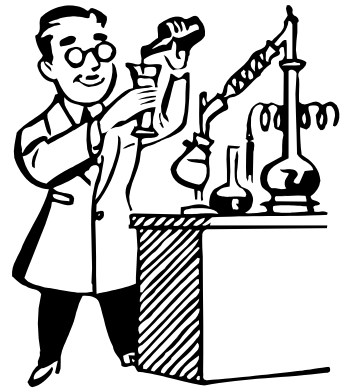
Long-distance learning opportunities may be available for certain course offerings, run through our affiliation with UVA Hospital/ Martha Jefferson Hospital/ Piedmont Community College, located in Charlottesville, Virginia. Any courses taken through Distance Education that have a laboratory component will meet in a designated location in Charlottesville for the required Laboratory classes. All other aspects of the Distance Education courses are offered via Blackboard online.

Upon satisfactory completion of the program, the graduate will be awarded the Health Technology (AAS) Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology, be eligible for, and encouraged to take a nationally recognized certification examination. Successful performance on such an examination is not required for graduation from the Program.

Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is Medical Technology, and what is a Medical Laboratory Technician?

Medical Technology is the science and practice of clinical laboratory testing, which is performed in order to identify human disease. A Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) is a technical professional tasked with performance of laboratory procedures, usually in a hospital or clinic facility.



Why should I be interested in the MLT program at J. Sargeant Reynolds?

There are at least three excellent reasons: (1) The beginning salary range for the MLT is very competitive - generally \$25 - \$30 thousand per year to start, often with sign-on bonuses and relocation packages; (2) The MLT program at J. Sargeant Reynolds qualifies one to sit for any of a number of prestigious national certification examinations in medical laboratory technology; and (3) Graduation from the MLT program positions one to continue on toward the Baccalaureate degree in Medical Technology at certain colleges or universities offering such a degree.

What does the MLT curriculum consist of? How long does it take to complete?

The MLT program at J. Sargeant Reynolds consists of 70 college credits, of which 41 are offered specifically in the medical laboratory sciences, the remainder in general subjects such as English, Math, Biology, Chemistry and others. If pursued on a full time basis, the entire curriculum generally requires five semesters to complete; longer if pursued part time.

I have already begun course work in another curriculum. Will any of these credits transfer into the MLT program?

Yes - All applicable course work completed with a grade of "C" or higher will transfer into the MLT curriculum (some restrictions apply). Prospective students are encouraged to consult the College Catalog for details.

Is the MLT Program at JSRCC nationally accredited? If so, by whom?

The MLT Program is fully accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), 8410 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 670, Chicago, Illinois 60631-3415; phone 773-714-8880.

What is the job outlook for MLTs?

Almost all MLT students seeking employment are offered positions before or immediately after graduation. The medical laboratory itself comprises a \$40 billion industry in the United States today. The demand for qualified laboratory professionals is great - over 50,000 job vacancies now exist nationwide. This demand is expected to increase far into the future.

What type of student typically pursues a career in Medical Technology?

Students enter the MLT program from all academic backgrounds. Although there is no single “type” of student, it is fair to say that most have a certain interest in science and technology, and expect to obtain acceptable employment upon graduation. Promising students are accepted immediately upon graduation from high school, as well as from other programs of study at J. Sargeant Reynolds and elsewhere. Students also transfer into the MLT program after completing Associate and Baccalaureate programs from other institutions.

What credentials are required in order to practice as an MLT?

At minimum, an MLT will need an Associates degree (AAS) from an accredited program, such as that offered by J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. Additionally, it is advisable to have earned laboratory certification through examination by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP), Board of Registry, NCA, or other agencies, available after graduation from the program.

What exactly is a “national certification examination” and why does one need to take it? Is it a requirement to graduate from JSRCC?

A number of independent agencies offer laboratory certification examinations through several technical levels. National certification as a medical laboratory technician greatly enhances opportunities for employment and increases chances for rapid advancement in the medical technology field. This type of examination is highly encouraged, but not a requirement for graduation from the MLT Program at JSRCC.

Can I take only the Medical Laboratory courses and then sit for a national certification examination without completing the A.A.S. degree?

No – Students should first complete the entire A.A.S. program in Medical Technology and receive their degree. Under certain circumstances, a student may take a national certification examination before completing the A.A.S. degree, but their scores might not be released by the testing agency until after degree completion.

Are there other opportunities for MLT graduates outside of the field of Medical Technology?

Yes - A certain number of MLT graduates (about 10%) ultimately pursue careers in Medicine (M.D.), Dentistry (D.D.S./D.M.D.), Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), Pathology (Ph.D.), and other areas. Many also pursue careers in business, computer science, teaching, and research. Medical Laboratory Technology provides excellent grounding and opportunities for entrance into most of the Medical, Physical, or Biological Sciences.

Application Process

Step 1: Submit an Application for Admission to the College. Write in “Medical Laboratory” (code 151) as your program of interest on line #14 of the application.

Step 2: Secure an interview with Becky Clark, the Medical Laboratory Technology Program Head by calling (804) 523-5772 during regular business hours. If you leave a message, please do not forget to mention your phone number and suggested time for contact.

Step 3: Request all official transcripts from High School and from any colleges (other than JSR) previously attended. These should be directed to the JSR Admissions Office, P.O. Box 85622, Richmond, VA 23285.

Step 4: All Medical Laboratory applicants must take placement exams for English, and Mathematics, unless the student has already completed college level credit in these courses.

Students who do not receive an acceptable score on these examinations may be required to take remedial course work prior to continuation in the program.

To schedule an appointment for any of these examinations, the student may call: 523-5470 (Downtown Campus); 523-5411 (Parham Road Campus); or 662-6421 (Western Campus). Transfer students from other curricula, who have already completed these placement exams, generally do not need to re-take them.

Physical Examination Requirement

Completion of a physical examination, including immunizations, is required not later than the term immediately preceding enrollment in the first Medical Laboratory Technology Clinical rotation. Forms will be provided for this purpose at the appropriate time. Applicants must be free of any physical or mental condition, which might adversely affect their acceptance or performance as Medical Laboratory professionals.

Medical Laboratory Curriculum

COURSE	TITLE	LEC. HRS.	LAB. HRS.	CRS. CRE.
SDV 100	College Success Skills	1	0	1
MTH 163	Pre-Calculus	3	0	3
CHM 111	College Chemistry I	3	3	4
BIO 101	General Biology I	3	3	4
ENG 111	College Composition I	3	0	3
____ ¹	Social Science Elective	3	0	3
Total		16	6	18
ITE 115	Basic Computer Literacy	3	0	3
MDL 101	Introduction to Medical Laboratory Technology	2	3	3
ENG 112	College Composition II	3	0	3
____ ¹	Social Science Elective	3	0	3
MDL 110	Urinalysis and Body Fluids	2	3	3
____ ¹	Health or Physical Education	0-2	0-4	2
Total		13-15	6-10	17
MDL 190	Coordinated Practice I- MLT Phlebotomy	0	8	2
MDL 251 ²	Clinical Microbiology I	2	6	4
MDL 125 ²	Clinical Hematology I	2	3	3
MDL 210	Clinical Immunology and Serology	2	3	3
Total		6	20	12
MDL 216 ³	Blood Banking	2	6	4
MDL 225 ⁴	Clinical Hematology II	2	3	3
MDL 252 ⁴	Clinical Microbiology II	2	3	3
MDL 262 ⁵	Clinical Chemistry and Instrumentation II	3	3	4
Total		9	15	14
MDL 190	MLT Coordinated Practice II	0	12	3
MDL 290	Coordinated Practice IV- MLT	0	12	3
MDL 282	Clinical Laboratory Techniques- Coordinated Practice III	0	12	3
Total		0	36	9

Total Minimum Credits for AAS Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology 70

¹A list of approved electives is available from the School of Health Sciences office.

²Fall term only.

³MDL 210 is a prerequisite or co-requisite for MDL 216.

⁴Spring term only.

⁵CHM 111 is a prerequisite or co-requisite for MDL 262.