

MEDICAL LABORATORY ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE

Purpose

This full time program is designed to prepare students for employment as a Medical Laboratory Assistant in either a private, hospital or public health laboratory. The program consists of a combination of theory and practical experiences. Students learn how to collect and process various biological specimens, including blood, for testing and analysis. Administrative functions to support the operation of the medical laboratory are also discussed. Students also learn how to perform cardiac monitoring tests, including electrocardiograms and Holter monitoring.

Graduates of the program meet the British Columbia Society of Laboratory Science's current *Competencies of an Entry-Level Medical Laboratory Assistant*.

Duration

6 months. The maximum time for completion is 2 years.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Practise safely, ethically and professionally as a Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA).
2. Integrate knowledge from the medical laboratory sciences to provide optimal medical laboratory services.
3. Collect, handle and process specimens for analysis according to standard operating procedures in the medical laboratory.
4. Use equipment applicable to the medical laboratory.
5. Perform cardiac monitoring tests.
6. Perform administrative functions to support the operation of the medical laboratory.
7. Assist with quality assurance programs in the medical laboratory.
8. Use effective interpersonal skills in the medical laboratory.

Admission Requirements

- Grade 12 graduation, or equivalent
- English Language Proficiency (<https://www.vcc.ca/applying/registration-services/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>) as demonstrated by *one* of the following:*
 - English 12 with a minimum 'B' grade, or equivalent
or
 - English Language Proficiency at an English 12 'B' level
- Knowledge of biology demonstrated by *one* of the following:
 - Biology 12 with a minimum 'C-' grade, or equivalent
or

- BIOL 0983 and BIOL 0993 both with a minimum 'C-' grade, or equivalent

- Certified five-minute keyboarding test with a minimum typing speed of 40 gross words per minute with a maximum of five errors

Upon Acceptance

- Criminal Record Check (CRC)
 - Students in this program are required to complete a CRC. The CRC must be completed according to VCC's Criminal Record Check instructions (<https://www.vcc.ca/crc/>). Students whose CRC results indicate they pose a risk to vulnerable populations will not be able to complete the requirements of the program (e.g. practicums) or graduate.
- TB Screening
 - Within six months of the start of the program, students must submit a negative TB skin test. If the TB skin test is positive, a negative TB chest x-ray is required.
- Immunizations
 - An Immunization Record must be completed
 - Immunizations in the following are *strongly recommended* and in some case *may be required* for practicum placements:
 - Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis
 - Polio
 - Measles, Mumps & Rubella
 - Varicella (Chicken pox)
 - Hepatitis B
 - Influenza (annually)
 - COVID-19 Vaccination

Program Requirements

Term One		Credits
MLAB 1111	Professional Practice	3
MLAB 1112	Laboratory Fundamentals	2
MLAB 1113	Specimen Collection & Process	6
MLAB 1114	Medical Laboratory Procedures	3
MLAB 1115	Electrocardiography	4
MLAB 1116	Human Relations Skills	1
MLAB 1117	Med Lab Computer Applications	1
Credits		20
Term Two		Credits
MLAB 1218	Laboratory Practicum	4
Credits		4
Total Credits		24

This guide is intended as a general guideline only. The college reserves the right to make changes as appropriate.

Evaluation of Student Learning

In Level 1, a combination of exams, assignments and laboratory evaluations are used. Students must achieve a minimum of 68% in each course in order to proceed to Level 2.

In Level 2, a successful completion of the Laboratory Practicum course requires a Satisfactory (S) evaluation of the student's performance in the medical laboratory setting.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Prior learning assessment and recognition is not available for this program.

Transcript of Achievement

The evaluation of learning outcomes for each student is prepared by the instructor and reported to the Student Records Department at the completion of semesters.

The transcript typically shows a letter grade for each course. The grade point equivalent for a course is obtained from letter grades as follows:

Grading Standard

Grade	Percentage	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
A+	90-100		4.33
A	85-89		4.00
A-	80-84		3.67
B+	76-79		3.33
B	72-75		3.00
B-	68-71		2.67
C+	64-67		2.33
C	60-63		2.00
C-	55-59		1.67
D	50-54		1.00
F	0-49	Failing Grade	0.00
S	70 or greater	Satisfactory – student has met and mastered a clearly defined body of skills and performances to required standards	N/A
U		Unsatisfactory – student has not met and mastered a clearly defined body of skills and performances to required standards	N/A
I		Incomplete	N/A

IP	Course in Progress	N/A
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W	Withdrawal	N/A
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Course Standings

R	Audit. No Credit	N/A
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EX	Exempt. Credit Granted	N/A
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TC	Transfer Credit	N/A
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Grade Point Average (GPA)

- The course grade points shall be calculated as the product of the course credit value and the grade value.
- The GPA shall be calculated by dividing the total number of achieved course grade points by the total number of assigned course credit values. This cumulative GPA shall be determined and stated on the Transcript at the end of each Program level or semester.
- Grades shall be assigned to repeated courses in the same manner as courses taken only once. For the purpose of GPA calculation of grades for repeated courses, they will be included in the calculation of the cumulative GPA.