

The University of New Mexico-Gallup

## **Medical Laboratory Technology Program**

# **INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS**

Updated October 2025



## **Why should students attend the MLT Program at UNM-Gallup?**

Stay close, go far.

The UNM-Gallup Medical Laboratory Technology Program provides potential students the opportunity to obtain an associate degree and find employment locally.

The MLT Program maintains a relatively small class size to ensure closer attention and to enhance instruction and learning especially in laboratory activities.

Students and graduates benefit most from the NAACLS-accredited MLT Program. Students receive instruction that meets national standards. All instructors are accreditation approved. Graduates can transition smoothly to a bachelor's program in the U.S., and are eligible to take the ASCP Board of Certification exam.

Now is the best time to pursue a career in the medical laboratory profession. A high percentage of laboratories in the US are hiring new grads; thus, the need for new MLTs is significantly increasing.

## **What will you learn?**

MLT students will learn to:

- Collect blood samples by venipuncture and capillary puncture methods; learn the proper collection and criteria for rejection of other clinical specimens.
- Operate laboratory equipment, such as microscopes, centrifuge, cell washers, incubators, analyzers.
- Analyze clinical specimens, such as blood, urine, and other body fluids, and record results.
- Test compatibility of patient and donor blood samples for transfusions by identifying the bloodtype, screening for unexpected antibodies, crossmatching, etc.
- Describe, identify and quantitate blood and body fluid cell types, both normal and abnormal.
- Perform microbial culture of clinical specimens and antibiotic susceptibility tests.
- Interpret results and findings of laboratory tests and procedures (but not provide clinical diagnosis; physicians must correlate lab results with other clinical findings)
- Work independently and collaboratively with classmates/co-workers/instructors/supervisors.

## **Employment Opportunities**

There's a very high demand for MLTs in our local and surrounding areas. Many of our graduates find employment immediately after graduation. Most were employed in hospitals; others were employed in medical and diagnostic laboratories, in physicians' offices, and for the federal government.

## **Starting Salaries**

The starting salary for MLTs vary significantly depending on the location and having the MLT ASCP licensure. Please see the following websites for more information:

- <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Medical-and-clinical-laboratory-technologists-and-technicians.htm#tab-1>
- <https://www.medicaltechnologyschools.com/medical-lab-technician/mlt-salary>
- <https://www1.salary.com/NM/medical-laboratory-technician-salary.html>

## **Information for current and future students**

***IMPORTANT: To help you decide on your career, first, you may want to think about these essential questions:***

1. How do you feel about blood and other specimens? You will be working with specimens most of the time, both in the student lab and during your clinical practicum in hospital laboratories.
2. How do you feel about needles? Do you feel comfortable getting your blood drawn and drawing blood? Before you work with real patients in hospital labs, you will learn phlebotomy skills in the student lab where you and your classmates may be required to draw blood from each other under the supervision of certified instructors.

## **Important things you must know before you enter the MLT Program**

- **Admission:** You must first be admitted to UNM-Gallup before you can apply to the MLT Program. If you are a current UNM student, it would be very helpful if you can run a degree audit for MLT (please log in to my.unm.edu) to check which courses you still need. Please see an advisor to assist you. You may download the application here: [www.gallup.unm.edu/mlt](http://www.gallup.unm.edu/mlt).
- **Curriculum:** Information on the courses may be found here: <https://gallup.unm.edu/mlt/mlt-as.html>.
- **Prerequisites:** It is best to complete your general education prerequisites before you apply to the Program. You must see an advisor to guide you on your program of study. Prioritize courses that must be taken in sequence i.e. English, Math, Biology and Chemistry courses. When you are close to getting your prerequisites done, you may consult the MLT Program Director if you can start taking MLT courses. Note that all professional coursework must be completed within a five-year time period.
- **Timeline:** A full-time student, who has completed all general education prerequisites, may be able to complete all MLT core courses in three semesters. Two semesters will be spent for courses on campus; final semester (up to 16 weeks, Monday through Thursday, 8 hours per day) will be devoted for clinical practicum courses in hospital laboratories and a board exam review course every Friday.

- **Needle-stick insurance:** All MLT students, and other health careers, who register for such courses, are automatically enrolled in needle-stick insurance. Students are billed by the UNM Bursar Office.
- **Course fees:** Course fees are required in some courses to help cover items such as, but not limited to, basic lab supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), lab coats, gloves, goggles, masks, online interactive learning programs, phlebotomy supplies, initial exam fee and face shields.
- **Dress code:** MLT students are required to wear plain gray scrub uniforms with MLT patch (patches are available at the bookstore) while attending MLT courses and during clinical training. Students are responsible for obtaining their own scrub uniforms.
- **Computer/internet access:** Most MLT courses are web-enhanced while some are hybrid where lectures are delivered online, and face-to-face lab activities are on campus. Students must have access to computer and internet (available in multiple sites on campus).
- **Biohazard Safety Training:** All MLT students are required to complete a biohazard safety training upon acceptance to the MLT Program. The MLT Program Director will assign the online module for the training.
- **Clinical practicum:** Graduating students eligible for clinical placement will need to apply to clinical laboratory affiliates as arranged by the MLT Program Director. This process would be similar to applying for a job where you will need a background check, fingerprinting, drug screen, immunizations, etc. Students are responsible for obtaining all required documents for clinical rotation application. Students are also responsible for their own transportation during clinical training. NOTE: *Clinical placement cannot be guaranteed as this would depend on the availability of the clinical affiliate's resources, and the result of the student application process (i.e. background check, fingerprinting, drug screen, immunizations, etc.)*
- **Board of Certification Exam Scheduling:** We recommend that you schedule your MLT ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) exam **within 90 days of graduating** from the MLT program. Scheduling and the initial exam fee payment will be coordinated with the MLT Program Director and the Division Administrative Assistant. Please note that if you have not scheduled an exam date within one year of completing the MLT program, you will forfeit eligibility for the program covered initial exam fee.
- **Further education:** You will have the opportunity to further your studies and continue with a bachelor's degree (offered at UNM Albuquerque campus and other universities nationwide) and graduate studies.

**Classes are open until filled. For best consideration, submit your complete application to the MLT Program by July 1 for fall admissions and Dec. 1 for spring admissions.** Please make sure all required documents (letter of intent and degree audit or unofficial transcripts) are attached to the completely filled-out application form. Interested students must first be admitted to UNM-Gallup before applying to the MLT Program. You may download and fill out the application form on the webpage and submit it online along with required documents to: [guerrerol@unm.edu](mailto:guerrerol@unm.edu).