

St. Petersburg College Medical Laboratory Technology *Online*

*E*arn an associate degree in Medical Laboratory Technology through the award-winning online program at St. Petersburg College.

St. Petersburg College understands you may be too busy with your job and family to come to campus for classes. That's why the college's online Medical Laboratory Technology program delivers theory courses over the Internet and arranges students' hands-on experiences at affiliated clinical laboratories near their homes. Contact the program director to see if there is an affiliated laboratory in your area.

As a medical laboratory technician, you'll work behind the scenes as part of a team of health care professionals. Medical laboratory technicians analyze blood, body fluids and tissues in search of clues that aid in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Career opportunities/starting salaries

Medical laboratory technicians are in demand in hospitals, reference laboratories, blood banks, public health and physician's office laboratories and also in research, forensic, environmental and food-industry laboratories.

The average starting salary for graduates in the Tampa Bay area is approximately \$36,000.

St. Petersburg College

SPC

Excellence in education since 1927



Medical Laboratory Technology *Online*

A degree at your doorstep

Distance education is our full-time job, not just an additional one. Because we no longer offer a campus-based program, our focus is the delivery of high-quality distance education.

St. Petersburg College has offered its MLT program for more than three decades. Its online program – which began in 2001 – was one of the first in the nation designed for true distance learning. Students never need to come to campus.

Our online program has a proven record. To date, 100 percent of program graduates have passed the national certification exam and have found employment in the field. In a survey of students, 85 percent rated SPC's online MLT courses equivalent to or better than a face-to-face course.

The program also won the Florida Association of Community Colleges' Excellence in Curriculum Award.

Unlike some online courses that are simply repositories for instructors' notes and little more than self studies, SPC's program incorporates the latest technology and provides students with an interesting and interactive learning experience.

Weekly small group discussions online with faculty create a learning community that ensures students never feel isolated. Courses are taught by certified professionals who work in the field and are experts on current theories and practices. In addition, instructors are online five days a week and respond to questions received on those days within 24 hours.

What we offer

In the MLT online program, theory courses are instructor-led yet Web-based. Though there is a weekly schedule to follow, students may log on to the course at any time. Discussions with the instructor and classmates take place through electronic bulletin boards and e-mail.

Clinical experiences, under the direction of college faculty, take place in an affiliated clinical laboratory.

This program requires six full-time sessions to complete (although part-time participation is permitted) and is designed to provide graduates with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to produce accurate and timely test results in a professional manner.

The MLT curriculum is divided into three parts: general education, support courses and courses in the major.



■ **General education courses:**

Students must take courses in English, humanities, mathematics, social and behavioral sciences and ethics. These courses are available online.

■ **Support courses:** Courses in chemistry and biology provide students with the scientific background needed for success in courses in the major. Chemistry, biology and microbiology labs should be taken at a college campus.

General education and support courses may be taken:

- At SPC campuses in St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Seminole or Tarpon Springs.
- Online at SPC (except for science labs).
- At any accredited community college, college or university.

■ **Courses in the major include:**

- **Clinical Chemistry** — Learn to operate automated analyzers that measure chemicals in body fluids and blood. These tests help diagnose liver and kidney diseases, diabetes, heart attacks and many other illnesses.
- **Clinical Microbiology** — Learn to identify the bacteria, fungi and parasites that cause human infections and determine the best antibiotics to treat those infections.
- **Hematology** — Learn to operate automated analyzers that perform complete blood counts and learn to identify normal and abnormal blood cells under the microscope. These tests aid in the diagnosis of anemias and leukemias.
- **Immunochemistry (blood banking)** — Learn to determine donor eligibility, collect blood, prepare blood components, determine blood types and provide compatible blood for patients who need transfusions.

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Clinical assignments

Students from the Tampa Bay area will be assigned to one of the college's affiliated clinical laboratories for their hands-on experiences. Students from outside the area may be accepted in the program if they are employed by a facility with an accredited, full-service clinical laboratory that applies and is approved to become a clinical affiliate. Contact the program director for more details. Students may not begin the courses in the major without assignment to an approved clinical site.

Preparing yourself

Applicants enter the program on a first-qualified, first-admitted basis. Early application is highly recommended. Classes begin in August. The application deadline is April 1.

Call, 727-341-3714 or visit www.spcollege.edu/hec/medlab for admission requirements.

Special requirements

Prospective students must pass a background check and a drug screening. Each student must have a physical examination and immunizations before entering the program.

Prospective students who are in the U.S. on a student visa should contact the college's International Center (727-341-4370) to determine their eligibility under INS laws to enroll in this online program.

Things to keep in mind

Online courses are not for everyone. Not only do you need proper computer equipment, you also must be self-motivated and able to work independently. To see if an online course is for you, visit www.spcollege.edu/ecampus.

Fees

Additional program costs include books, insurance, immunizations, background check, drug screening, lab and technology fees, physical exam and the trainee license (for Florida students).

Scholarships and student financial assistance

Assistance for qualified students in the form of scholarships, loans and work opportunities is available from a variety of sources. Students seeking assistance for college costs and living expenses should contact the Financial Assistance Services office for full details.

Clearwater Campus: 727-791-2485

St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus: 727-341-4638

Seminole Campus: 727-394-6254

Tarpon Springs Campus: 727-712-5709

The Medical Laboratory Technology program at St. Petersburg College is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences at 8410 W Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 670, Chicago, IL 60631; phone number: 773-714-8880. It is licensed by the Florida Board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel.

Graduates receive an Associate in Science in Medical Laboratory Technology degree and are eligible to apply for national certification examinations and state licensure.

Moving ahead

Graduates may advance their careers by completing a baccalaureate degree in medical technology.



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Additional information

For more information:

Medical Laboratory Technology Program

St. Petersburg College
PO Box 13489
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3489

727-341-3714

www.spcollege.edu/hec/medlab

polansky.valerie@spcollege.edu



What students are saying about St. Petersburg College's Medical Laboratory Technology online program

"I can learn at my own pace and not be distracted by other students. I find it easier to ask questions as well."

"Performing the assignments in the lab on real specimens is the best possible classroom setting."

"The flexibility of hours makes this an ideal way to learn."

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St. Petersburg College is dedicated to the concept of equal opportunity. The college will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or marital status, or against any qualified individual with disabilities, in its employment practices or in the admission and treatment of students. Recognizing that sexual harassment constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex and violates this rule, the college will not tolerate such conduct. Should you experience such behavior, please contact the director of EA/EO at (727) 341-3261; by mail at P.O. Box 13489, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3489; or by e-mail at eaao_director@spcollege.edu.