

SPC ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Dear Prospective Medical Laboratory Technology Student:

Thank you for your interest in our Medical Laboratory Technology program. Medical Laboratory Technology is an exciting career choice. There is a high demand for laboratory professionals due to a nationwide shortage, and we have made it easier for working students to complete the program by developing an online/off-campus program. Students never have to come to campus.

The program leads to an associate in science degree and may be completed in two years by attending full-time. Students may attend part-time and are encouraged to do so if they must work more than 20 hours a week.

Current tuition and fees may be reviewed at: <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/catalog/Current/fees.htm> . Residency is defined as having lived in Florida for at least 12 consecutive months before the first day of classes.

ENC 1101, a college level mathematics course (prefix MAC, MGF, MTG, or STA), CGS 1060, CHM 1025/1025L, and BSC 2010/2010L are prerequisites for admission to the program.

Science support course labs (CHM, BSC, MCB) should be taken on a college campus because of the need to enter the program with basic hands-on laboratory skills. These courses may be taken at SPC or at any regionally-accredited community college, college, or university.

General education courses may be taken:

- At the SPC campuses in St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Seminole, or Tarpon Springs.
- Online at SPC.
- At any regionally-accredited community college, college, or university.

Prior to the start of the courses in the major, students must be assigned to an approved clinical laboratory for the hands-on portion of the curriculum. Students from the Tampa Bay area will be assigned to one of our local clinical affiliates.

We regret that we cannot accept students from outside the Tampa Bay area unless they are employed by a facility with an accredited, full-service clinical laboratory that applies and is approved to become a clinical affiliate of the SPC MLT Program. Interested laboratory directors should be directed to the FAQs for Prospective Clinical Affiliates on the program website (www.spcollege.edu/hec/medlab) and should contact me for additional information about the application and approval process, which usually takes about four to six months to complete. Students cannot be admitted to the program until there is a signed affiliation agreement between the college and the clinical facility.

We also regret that we are unable to offer the program in the following counties which are in the service area of another Florida community college MLT program: Miami-Dade, Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Brevard, and Duval.

The format for the courses in the major (MLT prefix) is as follows:

- Theory courses are instructor-led, Web-based courses. There is a weekly schedule to follow but students may log on to the course at any time of the day. Discussions with the instructor and classmates take place through electronic bulletin boards and e-mail.
- Lab courses are blended. The theory portion and discussions with faculty and classmates are online. The hands-on portion takes place in an affiliated clinical laboratory. The time at the affiliated site varies from two to six hours per week, depending on the course.
- The clinical experience courses take place in an affiliated clinical laboratory the semester following successful completion of the theory and lab courses. Each of the four clinical experience courses requires 135 contact hours at the clinical site. In addition, there are weekly online discussions with the college instructor and classmates.

Although there is a great deal of flexibility in scheduling weekly clinical assignments, most of our clinical affiliates can only work with students on weekdays and during first shift hours. If your work schedule is not flexible enough for you to be available during these times, this program will probably not work for you.

At this time, only the online version of the program is being offered and only in the U.S.

You will find a link in the Information Packet to a checklist called “Are You Ready for an Online Course?” to help you determine if you have the skills for success in online classes. I can’t emphasize enough the importance of making sure well in advance that you have the technical skills and equipment needed for online courses. Unprepared students may become frustrated by technical difficulties.

You will also find links to:

1. College Application Form
2. Health Programs Application
3. Request for Transcript (to be mailed by you to your high school and any previous college)
4. Application and Admission Minimum Requirements Checklist
5. Program Brochure

Applications are not considered complete until **all** of the following are received by the college:

1. SPC Admission Application, including application fee
2. Placement test scores
3. Official high school and college transcripts
4. Health Programs Application

The College Application may be submitted at any time. Please follow the instructions on the college website: <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/futurestudent/apply.html>. If you need the assistance of an academic advisor, please complete the online advising request form at www.spcollege.edu/surveys/hec.

The Health Programs Application should not be submitted until all pre-entry requirements have been fulfilled.

Applications do not come through my office so applicants are advised to track the status of their application by contacting the Records Department at the Health Education Center, 727-341-3750 or 727-341-3757. Often a delay in receipt of official transcripts holds up the admission process. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the college receives all transcripts.

A background check and drug screen are required prior to admission. Information about the process will be provided by the Admissions Department following acceptance to the program. Prospective students who will be seeking licensure in Florida and who have been convicted of a felony are advised to contact the Florida Board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel, (850) 245-4355, to determine the impact this might have on their ability to obtain a license. Prospective students from other states should seek advice in their home state.

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

Feel free to contact me at (727) 341-3714 or watrous.mitch@spcollege.edu if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Watrous, M.Ed., MT(ASCP)
Program Director, MLT Program