



**Bachelor of Health Sciences
in
Medical Laboratory Science (MLSc)
Program Handbook**

2026.2027

IMPORTANT NOTE: This handbook is not a substitute for the calendar. The University Undergraduate Academic Calendar reflects the most recent policy information and serves as the primary source for policy-related decisions. It is the student's responsibility to ensure **ALL** degree and program requirements are met.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Vision Statement

The Medical Laboratory Science graduates excel as innovative practitioners committed to excellence and a collaborative and healthy work environment. These graduates play a pivotal role in the provision of quality healthcare and in scholarship for the advancement of self, the profession, and society.

1.2 Mission Statement

The Medical Laboratory Science program prepares highly skilled graduates who are committed to excellence, innovation, and evidence-based practice in a rapidly changing healthcare environment. Throughout the program, there is an emphasis on collaboration, accountability, leadership, and research as the foundation of evidence.

1.3 Program Values

- Quality
- Accountability
- Safe and Ethical Practice
- Academic Rigour
- Collaboration

1.4 Program Goals: Overarching and Years 1-4

- Prepare graduates to successfully challenge the CAMPLR examination by attaining the competencies stated in the provincial and national competency profiles.
- Prepare graduates who excel as entry-level technologists.
- Provide a leading-edge educational experience that provides academic depth and breadth to support professional advancement and entry to graduate school.
- Provide opportunities for technology-enhanced experiential learning in both the classroom and the laboratory.

Year One

- Develop knowledge of general safe laboratory practice, progressing to the ability to demonstrate safe laboratory practice consistently.
- Develop foundational knowledge in basic sciences, including chemistry, biology, anatomy, physiology, mathematics, and academic writing.

Years Two and Three

- Demonstrate knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of a medical laboratory professional within the Canadian healthcare environment, including the patient's right to a reasonable, safe standard of care.
- Demonstrate knowledge of professional practice standards in ethical practice, communication, accountability, teamwork, managing conflict, and reflective practice.
- Demonstrate a consistently high level of biosafety and safe practice, proceeding to a consistently high level of safe laboratory practice.
- Develop competence in the pre-analytical phase of laboratory processes: specimen procurement, sample processing, and resource management.
- Develop competence in the analytical phase of laboratory processes in Biochemistry, Hematology,

Microbiology, Microanatomy, Histotechnology, and Transfusion Science, including quality control, interpretation, and assessment.

- Develop competence in using molecular techniques and their application in diagnostics and research.
- Develop competence in the post-analytical phase of laboratory processes, including quality management, effective leadership skills, and interprofessional practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to work and problem-solve independently.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate data to the decision-making process.
- Develop an attitude of inquiry in research.

Year Four

- Demonstrate competence as an entry-level medical laboratory science professional as defined by national and provincial competency profiles and standards.
- Demonstrate an enhanced understanding of professional practice standards.
- Demonstrate an attitude of inquiry in research and preparedness to follow a graduate studies pathway.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a medical laboratory professional within the rapidly changing and complex health care environment, including the impact of assuming an informal or formal leadership role.

1.5 CAMLPR Competencies

CAMLPR Competencies Expected of an Entry Level Medical Laboratory Technologist can be found at <https://camlpr.org/competency-profiles/>

These competencies are the foundation on which the BHSc in Medical Laboratory Science Program has been built.

1.5.1 Competency Sign-Off During Didactic

As a competency-based program, the Medical Laboratory Science program is committed to ensuring that students have met the required competencies of the profession at entry to practice. However, the program recognizes that some competencies may be challenging to achieve in all clinical practicum settings. These challenges arise due to the diverse and fluid nature of medical laboratory practices, as well as an understanding of the varied needs of different communities and clinical partners. While many of the typically performed duties of an MLT address a large portion of the competency profile, we wish to ensure that the MLT program does not impose an undue burden on our valued clinical partners. As such, the Ontario Tech program has taken steps to ensure that students have achieved several critical competencies and skills before the clinical practicum. These competencies/skills include the following:

- **Clinical Chemistry:** blood gases, electrophoresis, chromatography, osmometry, immunoassay, POCT, mass spectrometry.
- **Clinical Hematology:** manual cell counts, flow cytometry, body fluid analysis.
- **Clinical Microbiology:** reagent/media preparation, blood cultures.
- **Histology:** special stains.
- **Transfusion Science:** antibody investigation, transfusion reaction, fetal-maternal, neonatal, semi-automated equipment.
- **General:** chain of custody, patient instruction.

The Ontario Tech faculty has developed a standard assessment measure that incorporates authentic assessment and experiential exercises to ensure that students have demonstrated the required aspects of practice. We have conducted competence assessments locally at the Ontario Tech facility. An Ontario Tech faculty member will sign off on these competencies before the practicum.

While we have taken steps to ensure students have addressed the listed competencies, this does not prevent a clinical partner from providing opportunities if time and equipment are available at the associated site. We understand competency as a continuous process; students are expected to participate actively in their competency development and may still be assessed by clinical partners in any of the CAMLPR competencies and those listed within the harmonized clinical practicum manuals.

1.6 Support & Accommodations

1.6.1 Faculty and Staff Directory

Refer to <https://ontariotechu.ca/directory/>

1.6.2 Accommodation

Disability-related support and accommodation support are available for students with mental health, physical, mobility, sensory, medical, cognitive, or learning challenges. Office hours are 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. For more information on services provided, you can visit the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) website at <https://studentlife.ontariotechu.ca/services/accessibility/index.php>

Students may contact Student Accessibility Services by calling 905-721-3266 or emailing studentaccessibility@ontariotechu.ca

Ontario Tech University is committed to the prevention of sexual violence in all its forms. For *any* student who has experienced sexual violence, the University will make accommodations to cater to the diverse backgrounds, cultures, and identities of students when dealing with individual cases.

- If you have been subjected to or witnessed sexual violence: Reach out to a Support Worker, who is a specially trained individual authorized to receive confidential disclosures about incidents of sexual violence. Support Workers can offer help and resolution options, which may include safety plans, accommodations, mental health support, and other resources. To make an appointment with a Support Worker, call 905.721.3392 or Email supportworker@ontariotechu.ca
- Learn more about Ontario Tech University's sexual violence support and education at: <https://studentlife.ontariotechu.ca/sexualviolence/>

1.7 Academic Schedule 2025-2026

Refer to Ontario Tech University Academic Calendar <https://ontariotechu.ca/current-students/academics/academic-calendars/index.php>

2.0 PROGRAM PROFESSIONAL SUITABILITY

The following requirements are in place to ensure competent, safe, and ethical practice while students are registered in MLSC-designated courses.

2.1 Requirements for Safe Practice

To be eligible to participate in MLSC-designated courses, students must meet specific requirements for safe practice within established timelines, as outlined in the Medical Laboratory Science Program Handbook, Biosafety/Safety Manual, discipline-specific laboratory standard operating procedure manuals, and practicum handbooks. These requirements include the successful completion of all prerequisite coursework, health and safety requirements, and a criminal reference check. Students who do not successfully meet the requirements for safe practice will not be approved to participate in MLSC-designated courses and will be required to withdraw from their respective courses until the next time the course is offered and the requirements are met.

2.2 Clinical Review

A student on placement in a clinical setting, who has exhibited behaviour that is inconsistent with the norms and expectations of the profession, or that places the student, patients or others at risk, may be immediately suspended from the program and subject to a review and possible academic sanctions, in accordance with the Professional Unsuitability section of the Undergraduate Academic Calendar.

2.3 Ensuring Entry to Practice Suitability

One or more laboratory evaluation components of the MLSC courses may involve timed elements. For students to meet the expectations of quality and safe patient care in the clinical setting, the timed element of these evaluation components cannot be waived or extended. Students registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) must discuss time limitations with their advisor and subsequently with the course professor.

3.0 PROGRAM PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Progression

Across the Program

1. A student must achieve a minimum grade of C in all professional medical laboratory courses (MLSC) to pass the course. Students who earn a grade lower than a C in any of the courses designated MLSC will be put on **program probation**, regardless of their overall GPA. A second grade of less than C in any **repeated** MLSC-designated course will result in an academic standing of **Program Dismissal**.
2. A total of **three failures** in any combination of required HLSC or MLSC courses will result in an academic standing of **Program Dismissal**. Additionally, students who fail a third attempt at any required program course will be dismissed from the program, in accordance with the University's repeat policy.
3. A student who has **two** withdrawals from a single MLSC course and/or a total of three withdrawals from a combination of required HLSC or MLSC courses will result in an academic standing of **Program Dismissal**.

Students who are dismissed from the program but have maintained the academic standing to remain at the University, may apply for a change of program.

MLSC 1000 and 2000 Level Courses

In addition to the above requirements:

- The student must have an **overall minimum of 60%, plus**
- **A minimum of 60% in both theory and practical, plus**
- **A minimum of 50% on both the final theory and practical exams**

MLSC 3000 Level Courses

In addition to the above requirements:

- The student must have an **overall minimum of 60%, plus**
- A minimum of 60% in both theory and practical, plus
- **A minimum of 60% on both the final theory and final practical exams.**

- Failure in 3000-level MLSC-designated courses will result in enrollment in a **self-directed, personalized learning plan** to facilitate success in the program. Compliance with learning plan conditions is tracked and documented. Noncompliance may impact a student's professional conduct evaluation.

- ### MLSC 4000 Level Courses

Each MLSC-designated 4000-level discipline or professional practice practicum course consists of a pair of 1.5-credit courses, i.e., a full-year course. Failure in any required component (i.e., technical competencies, discipline exam, professional component) of a 4000-level practicum course constitutes a failed rotation. Students must obtain a **minimum of 65% on all discipline examinations.**

Discipline Exams

- For 4000-level MLSC discipline courses, where a student does not achieve the required 65% on the first attempt at a discipline exam, **only one supplemental attempt is allowed, with the agreement of the Practicum Coordinator.**
- If the student is unsuccessful on the supplemental attempt, the discipline course will remain incomplete until the conclusion of the practicum.
- **No further supplemental exams will be allowed after two failed discipline exams.** The discipline courses will remain incomplete until the conclusion of the practicum. Further supplemental exams will only be granted following consultation by the Dean, Program Director, Practicum Coordinator, and Academic Advisor.

In addition, no further supplemental exams will be allowed after the following:

- 3 unsuccessful attempts at a discipline exam.
- A combined total of 10 discipline exams across all five disciplines.

The discipline course(s) will remain incomplete until the conclusion of the practicum. Further supplementals will only be granted following a successful appeal.

Project Course

MLSC 4400 and 4401 are two 3-credit courses. Required course components include:

- Literature review. Must obtain a **minimum of 60%.**

- Clinical project. Must obtain a **minimum of 60%**.

Overall

In addition to the above requirements:

- The **failure of three MLSC-designated 4000-level practicum courses** may result in withdrawal standing and removal from the medical laboratory science program.

4. Missed Exams

Mid-Semester Laboratory Exam

- There will be limited opportunity provided to complete a missed mid-semester laboratory exam. **Following approval of appropriate documentation** explaining the absence, the weight of this missed exam will be allocated to the final laboratory exam.
- On a case-by-case basis, where the missed material or skills are not formally evaluated elsewhere, a supplemental mid-semester laboratory exam may be administered.
- In the absence of documentation, a mark of zero will be awarded for this assessment.

Mid-Semester Theory Exam – Course with Two Midterms

There will be no opportunity provided to complete a missed mid-semester theory exam **if** the course has two mid-semester theory exams. Following approval of appropriate documentation explaining the absence, the weight of the missed exam will be allocated to the final theory exam. In the absence of documentation, a mark of zero will be awarded for this assessment.

Mid-Semester Theory Exam – Course with One Midterm

A deferred mid-semester theory exam may be offered following approval of appropriate documentation, where only one mid-semester theory exam is scheduled. It is the student's responsibility to provide the appropriate documentation as soon as possible following the missed exam and to discuss with the course instructor the timing of a deferred mid-semester theory exam for courses that have only one mid-semester theory exam.

Final-Semester Laboratory Exam

A deferred final-semester laboratory exam may be offered following approval of appropriate documentation. It is the student's responsibility to provide the appropriate documentation as soon as possible following the missed exam and to discuss with the course instructor the timing of a deferred final-semester laboratory exam. In the absence of documentation, a mark of zero will be awarded for this assessment.

Final-Semester Theory Exam

A deferred final-semester theory exam may be offered following approval of appropriate documentation. It is the student's responsibility to provide the appropriate documentation as soon as possible following the missed exam and to discuss with the course instructor the timing of a deferred final-semester theory exam. In the absence of documentation, a mark of zero will be awarded for this assessment.

Professional Conduct Evaluations

These are used to assess the students' behavior in the laboratory and other learning settings throughout their enrollment in the Medical Laboratory Science program. The MLSc Professional Conduct Evaluation assesses student safety and professionalism and is independent of the successful completion of MLSC courses, except MLSC

3300 Simulated Practicum. As an **essential component of MLSC 3300**, students cannot proceed to the clinical practicum without successfully completing the professional conduct evaluation.

Each student is assessed individually, using feedback from all MLSc instructors based on the behavior demonstrated in all MLSc courses in which the student is enrolled during the relevant semester. A clear understanding of behaviour expectations for each of the competencies on the part of the student is critical. The professional conduct evaluation will be introduced at the beginning of each academic year to provide an opportunity for students to clarify the behavior expectations identified in this document. When necessary, consultation with students will be conducted by the MLSc Practicum Coordinator and other MLSc faculty members as appropriate. Professional conduct evaluation also occurs throughout the practicum semesters.

3.2 Progression Review

The MLSc program instructors will regularly assess students' performance within a course. Decisions about a student's progress in the program are based on documented standards.

- On the first day of class, MLSC course outlines will be available for review. Outlines will detail the type, timing, and weight of all evaluations included in the course. No changes to the course outcomes are permitted. Changes to the evaluation type, timing, and weight can only be made with appropriate consultation with the class and approval from the Program Director.
 - Students will receive written evaluative feedback and/or at least one mark prior to the voluntary withdrawal deadline specified in the calendar.
 - The Program Director will have a mid-semester check-in meeting with all students.
 - Students at risk of academic difficulty mid-semester will be identified by the instructor and reported to the program director, who will meet with the student to review their performance and recommend appropriate support.
 - For students in the practicum component of the program, academic files will be reviewed by the practicum coordinator and program director as needed.
 - Students who have not been successful in meeting MLSc course/program requirements by the end of the semester and wish to appeal their academic standing will follow the established policies and procedures (see below).

3.3 Student Academic Appeals

3.3.1 Academic Standing

Refer to Ontario Tech University Academic Calendar

<https://calendar.ontariotechu.ca/content.php?catoid=81&navoid=3688>

3.3.2 Grade Changes

Refer to Ontario Tech University Academic Calendar

<https://calendar.ontariotechu.ca/content.php?catoid=81&navoid=3688>

3.3.3 Grade Reappraisal and Appeals

Refer to Ontario Tech University Academic Calendar

<https://calendar.ontariotechu.ca/content.php?catoid=81&navoid=3688#academic-appeal>

3.3.4 Other Academic Policies

Refer to Ontario Tech University Academic Calendar

<https://calendar.ontariotechu.ca/content.php?catoid=81&navoid=3688>

3.3.5 MLS Program Supplementary Examination Consideration (Year 2, 3, and 4 Courses)

Theory Exams

Students who have failed to achieve the required minimum passing grade (e.g., 60%) in the final theory exam of any MLSC course will be provided with the option to complete a supplemental final theory examination, provided **ALL** the following criteria have been met:

- The student received a final examination score of not greater than 5% below the minimum passing grade, as per the program progression rules.
- The student has obtained a cumulative passing grade (e.g., 60%) in the in-term theory academic work; plus a passing grade in the laboratory component of the course, plus a passing grade in the practical final examination (if applicable).
- The student has not received a grade of less than C in any other MLSC course within the current academic term.
- The student is in “Clear Standing”
- The student has not been granted more than two additional supplementary theory exams during their enrollment in the MLSC program.

Supplemental theory examinations will be offered within the first 5 days of the following academic term in the same format as the original examination.

Students who do NOT meet the above criteria are advised to refer to the University Undergraduate Academic Appeals Policy.

Practical Exams

- Supplemental examinations will not be offered for students who fail to meet the minimum passing score of the practical examination. Students are advised to refer to the University Undergraduate Academic Appeals Policy.

4.0 ATTENDANCE, PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

4.1 Attendance and Safety

The University believes that a student will make reasonable and informed decisions regarding their attendance at scheduled sessions. Attendance at lectures, tutorials, seminars, laboratories, and clinical education sessions is essential to the successful completion of the MLSc program of study. Both theoretical curricula, which may be presented in lectures, tutorials, seminars, laboratory sessions, and practicum, are essential to the development of clinical skills.

4.1.1 MLSC Program Laboratory Attendance Policy

As the acquisition of competency is essential to the practice of Medical Laboratory Science, laboratory attendance is mandatory in all MLSC courses. Students who fail to attend 90% or more of the laboratory sessions in an MLSC course will receive a failing grade in the laboratory component of the course, regardless of scores obtained in individual laboratories, and will **NOT** be permitted to complete any final practical examination in the course (if applicable). **It is important to note that 90% attendance does mean imply that a student may “skip” 10% of your labs without consequence. The 10% allowance is in place to ensure students who are unable to make it to labs for valid reasons are not punished unfairly. Ultimately, you are expected to attend ALL laboratory sessions and communicate to your instructor circumstances that are outside of your control.**

Due to the required preparation of laboratories by faculty, students will not be allowed to make up the laboratory session and will instead be required to speak to their professor regarding missed materials. Students must notify the course professor of any exceptional circumstance requiring a planned absence before missing the laboratory session. Exceptional circumstances related to laboratory absences will be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the course professor and/or program director(s).

Please note that for laboratory sessions in the Microbiology-specific courses, a laboratory session for the purposes of 90% minimum attendance is constituted as all laboratory component periods within a given academic week. Failure to attend one component will be considered an absence for the academic week at the discretion of the professor.

Please note that there will be an impact on theory and laboratory marks for lateness, absences, and serious safety infractions. The specifics are outlined below and are detailed in each MLSC course outline.

Safety infractions in the laboratory are considered extremely serious. A mark of zero will be awarded if a serious safety infraction occurs; however, some latitude and discretion may be exercised by the laboratory instructors based on the seriousness of the infraction and the stage of the learning process. If safety infractions occur repeatedly, an incident report will be completed and forwarded to the Program Director. A second documented safety infraction will result in an interview regarding suitability to continue in the program. **Students who fail to adhere to safety requirements in the laboratory may be asked to leave to protect themselves and others and will NOT be provided with an opportunity to repeat these laboratory sessions.**

4.2 Dress Code for Both Safety and Professionalism, Use of Electronic Devices in the MLSC-designated Laboratories

Ontario Tech Medical Laboratory Science Dress Code

We value the spectrum of human diversity, self-expression, and experiences of our students and academic community and strive to foster environments that respect difference and empower students to achieve their potential.

We also recognize that there are requirements related to infection control practices, laboratory safety, expectations of the profession, and there may be specific requirements of our partner agencies in relation to dress code requirements. Failure to comply with the requirements established within the program handbook may result in being asked to leave the practicum setting or not being permitted entrance to the student laboratory.

Students are expected to observe the following dress code requirements AT ALL TIMES in a **lab-based experience (e.g., BIT3075, BIT3085, BIT3095) or practicum environment**:

1. Students in the medical laboratory science program are strongly **encouraged** to wear scrubs within the laboratory setting. Scrubs can be purchased from various vendors and may be required by clinical partners. Scrubs should be the standard type (no shorts or capris) and fully cover the legs. While **NOT** a requirement of the program, it is suggested that scrubs for the medical laboratory science program should be a solid colour and light blue is recommended.
2. Footwear must be closed-toe and closed-heel and comply with agency policy, as applicable. Shoes should provide good support, be clean and in good condition, and should not expose the upper part of the foot (e.g., flats are not permitted unless they cover the entire foot). The shoe heel should not exceed 1 inch, and a non-slip sole is required.
3. Long hair must be tied back to prevent inadvertent contamination. (i.e., if hair can be tied back, it must be tied back). Barrettes and combs must comply with agency policies.
4. Hats are not permitted within the laboratory or clinical space; however, in a clinical placement setting, where allowed, scrub hats may be used.
1. Students with beards should ensure that their facial hair is kept clean and tidy. Facial hair may interfere with mask seals. Please consider this a potential health and safety risk.
2. Cosmetics and fragrances should be kept to a minimum. All practice settings are to be considered scent-free, and students should use scent-free personal products. Cosmetics must not be applied in laboratory or clinical settings.
3. Comfortable, professional (e.g., business casual or scrubs) clothing is to be worn under the lab coat, and skin exposure must be kept to a minimum (e.g., mid-rift, legs, shoulders, and upper arm should all be covered by clothing). Please ensure your undergarments are properly concealed at all times.
4. Student identification badge (as well as agency identification if applicable) is to be worn on the upper body and be visible at all times during clinical placements.
5. For infection control reasons, nails must be kept short and artificial nails are not permitted. Nail polish is permitted but should be free of cracks and chips.
6. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum and is subject to the safety/infection control policies set by the specific agency (e.g., earrings should be limited to those that are close to the skin, rings must not interfere with gloves).
7. Body art (e.g., tattoos) is accepted so long as there is no visible profanity, violence, discrimination, or sexually explicit content.
8. Personal electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, personal laptops, etc.) are not permitted in the lab.
9. Food and drink are not permitted in the lab.

Please Note: where applicable, placement agency policy replaces program guideline.

Students who follow specific dress for cultural or religious reasons are invited to speak directly with their professor/clinical instructor to ensure that their needs are met within this policy and remain within the protocols.

4.3 Protection of Privacy

Personal information is collected under the authority of the University's Act and is protected, used, disclosed, and retained in compliance with Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Information will be used to administer registration and progression in the Medical Laboratory Science program.

Program information, including registration and academic achievement, may be disclosed to a clinical partner site as necessary for the administration of clinical placements in the Medical Laboratory Science program.

Questions regarding the privacy of student personal information may be directed to the MLSc Program Director or to the University's Chief Privacy Officer at <https://usgc.ontariotechu.ca/compliance/access-and-privacy/index.php>

4.4 Communication

It is expected that students communicate with course instructors regarding any aspect of a course using Canvas for the duration of the course. Course instructors will also only communicate with students about course-related issues using Canvas. The **ontariotechu.net Email** is to be used for all other "general," i.e., non-course related matters. **The use of a personal email address is not acceptable and cannot be used as an excuse for not having issues addressed or for not receiving communication.**

4.4.1 Email

- Email communication should be considered a professional form of communication. It is expected that students will include appropriate greetings and signatures, compose full-sentence messages that clearly indicate the purpose of the communication, and maintain a respectful and professional tone at all times.
- Students should not consider emails sent to faculty members or clinical instructors to be confidential. If, in the potential interest of student, patient, or public safety, correspondence from a student is deemed to be potentially concerning in any way, faculty will be required to share this information with appropriate individuals.

4.4.2 Use of Personal Technology & Communication Devices

Students must conduct themselves professionally and appropriately at all times when using technology.

All students are guided by Ontario Tech University's Information Technology Use Policy, which can be found at: <https://itsc.ontariotechu.ca/resources/policies.php>

In addition to this general policy, the following guidelines apply to the use of any technology in the BHSc MLSc program (including computers/laptops, tablets, smart watches, cell phones, and other electronic devices):

- Professional behaviour and proper technology etiquette will be observed at all times when using cell phones, tablets, laptops, or other electronic devices in the classroom or clinical setting.
- Technological devices may be used only when authorized by faculty for clinical or classroom activities, or as an approved accommodation to reduce the impact of a disability. Students seeking the latter will require an

Accommodations Notice from the Student Accessibility Services.

- When faculty request that students close laptops or turn off other electronic devices to focus attention on a learning activity, it is expected that students will respond promptly to this direction.
- Personal phone conversations or texting are not allowed outside of the lab during designated laboratory hours. **A formal written warning will be issued for the first violation of using an electronic device for socializing during lab time, which will be recorded in the student's file. A lab component failure will be recorded for the second violation, regardless of whether it occurs in the same course or in another course.**

4.4.3 Social Media Guideline

"Social media" is a group of internet-based applications, technologies, and mobile tools that people use to share opinions, information, experiences, images, and video or audio clips. Common sources of social media include, but are not limited to, social networking sites such as Facebook and LinkedIn, personal, professional, and anonymous blogs, Twitter, TikTok, content-sharing websites like YouTube and Instagram, and discussion forums and message boards.¹

Students are reminded that social media sites may present a sense of anonymity and/or lack of permanence; however, social media is public, and even posts that are "private" may be copied and shared, and are available long after. As such, we remind students that social media spaces are also public spaces, and we strongly encourage students to refrain from posting anything that would not be said in a public gathering, nor information that would not be suitable for anyone in the world to see, especially in the context of patient confidentiality.²

Relevant Ontario Tech University Standards:

Students are expected to utilize social media sites responsibly and professionally at all times and in accordance with: The policies for professional conduct as outlined by the Ontario Tech University [Code of Conduct](#)

- The policies regarding professional suitability as outlined by Ontario Tech University [Professional Suitability](#)

Specific Reminders for Medical Laboratory Science Students at Ontario Tech University:

In addition to university policies, medical laboratory students are expected to demonstrate behaviors consistent with the profession. For example, med lab students are expected to uphold the privacy of colleagues and clients in accordance with the following:

- Policies related to the Government of Ontario Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004 (PHIPA) [PHIPA](#)
- Policies related to the Government of Ontario Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act (FIPPA) [FIPPA](#)
- Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science Position Statement https://www.csmls.org/csmls/media/documents/resources/PS-Social-Media-Use_EN.pdf
- Agency-specific policy/agreements as per a student's practicum site.

¹ International Nurse Regulator Collaborative (2014). "Social media use: Common expectations for Nurses." Retrieved from: <https://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/incr-social-media-use-common-expectations-for-nurses.pdf>

² University of Exeter Student's Guild Social Media Policy. Retrieved from: <https://www.exeterguild.org/pageassets/staff/hr/policies/Social-Media-Policy-September-2020.pdf>

Privacy Breach or Breach of Agency Policy:

Students who fail to adhere to the standards of professional practice regarding FIPPA and PHIPA legislation may be charged with academic or non-academic misconduct (depending on the nature of the infraction) and are at risk of failing the course. Students who breach patient confidentiality may also be investigated by the agency and depending on the severity of the breach may be reported to the privacy commission. Patients will also be notified of any privacy breach. ([Access and Privacy | Office of the University Secretary and General Counsel \(ontariotechu.ca\)](#))

Students are prohibited from posting any information related to their practicum placement on any social media site(s) that would not otherwise be public knowledge. For example, students **MUST NOT** post information related to patients' identifying information (i.e., name, birthdate, diagnosis etc.). Students should refrain from posting negative remarks about an agency, a unit or a staff member. Students **MUST** also **REFRAIN** from posting photos that could identify (intentionally or inadvertently) any patients or staff and should not post about any procedures completed on a unit or with a patient.

Students wishing to highlight our partnerships with agencies, for example, by taking an end-of-term photo of the group of students and instructors, should do so at the discretion of the agency. Students who breach any part of this guideline may be removed from their placement site, subject to appropriate university policies (e.g., academic, code of conduct, professional suitability), and will be at risk of failing the course and possible dismissal from the program and/or the University.

Recommendations for using social media tools:

- Protect your personal identity by using strict privacy settings
- Create strong passwords and do not share them
- Maintain the privacy and confidentiality of fellow students' information
- Maintain professional boundaries and do not engage in social media relationships with clients
- Do not post any client information or images
- Never post unprofessional or negative comments about clients, staff, other students, placement agencies, or employers – there are formal channels for investigating student concerns; please speak with your instructor.
- Avoid using social media sites to vent or discuss work/school-related events, and comments on posts of this nature made by others
- Maintain professionalism in postings, photos, and videos.
- Keep school-related social media activities separate from personal social media activities.
- Avoid giving health-related advice in response to posted comments or questions due to personal liability

3. College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (2012). Position statement on social media, p. 3. Retrieved: https://cdn1.nscn.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/Social_Media.pdf

4.4.4 Program Communication with Students

Faculty members and staff in the MLSc program will communicate directly with students. It is up to the student to decide how much information they wish to share with their family and support network.

Email communication with students from the BHSc MLSc program will be done using the students' ontariotechu.net address only.

4.5 Professional Conduct Evaluation

The profession of Medical Laboratory Science operates under the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991(http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_91r18_e.htm) and abides by the CMLTO Standards of Practice. https://www.cmlto.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/cmlto_sop_sept_2017.pdf

Professional conduct evaluations are used to assess students' behavior in the laboratory and other learning settings throughout their enrollment in the Medical Laboratory Science program. The MLSc Professional Conduct Evaluation Form assesses student safety and professionalism and is independent from the successful completion of the MLSC courses, except MLSC3300 Simulated Practicum. **Each student is individually evaluated using feedback from all relevant MLSc instructors, based on the behavior demonstrated in all MLSc courses in which the student is enrolled during the relevant semester.** A clear understanding of behaviour expectations for each of the competencies on the part of the student is critical. The professional conduct evaluation will be introduced at the beginning of the semester to provide students with an opportunity to clarify the behavior expectations outlined in this document. When necessary, consultation with students will be conducted by the MLSc Program Director and other MLSc faculty as appropriate. For the MLSC3300 course, students must successfully meet the expectations to pass the course and continue in the program. Professional conduct evaluation also occurs throughout the practicum semesters. The expectation of professional conduct has been developed to support and enhance Ontario Tech University's Student Code of Conduct and to prepare students for the professional behaviour expectations of the Medical Laboratory Science practicum sites.

4.6 Policy on Missed Compulsory Evaluations

The term "compulsory evaluation" refers to any assignment, project, laboratory exercise, practicum evaluation, or examination where the mark allotted to that evaluation forms **5% or more of the final grade.**

Absence from theory or laboratory evaluations, or late submission of coursework (laboratory reports, projects, essays) that contribute less than 5% of the final course mark will result in a mark of zero for that evaluation.

Late submissions of coursework worth 5% or more of the final course mark will incur a 10% penalty per day and will not be accepted after the third day, including weekends. It is the student's responsibility to negotiate

alternative arrangements before the due date. Faculty members reserve the right to adjust penalties in accordance with their classroom practices. Refer to individual course syllabus for additional information.

4.6.1 Reallocation of Marks or Access to a Deferred Examination

Please note that in each of the scenarios identified below, there will be no reallocation of marks or access to a deferred exam without the submission of appropriate documentation explaining "unavoidable cause" within the identified timeframes. See below for the definition of appropriate documentation of the unavoidable cause and timeframes. This information can also be found in section 3 of this handbook.

4.6.2 Documentation of Unavoidable Cause

Students who are late for, or who do not attend, a compulsory evaluation (laboratory or theory evaluation worth 5% or more of the final mark) due to unavoidable cause* must:

- Submit the appropriate documentation of the unavoidable cause to the course instructor as soon as is reasonably possible and no later than two working days after the evaluation date, or upon the first day of return if later than that.
- Make alternative arrangements with the course instructor to:
 - Take an exam at another time (theory only)
 - Be awarded a mark based on a special assignment – applies to activities such as projects, assignments, and laboratory exercises.
 - Have the mark omitted from the calculation of the final grade for the course – applies to activities such as projects, assignments, and laboratory exercises

NOTE: Please see section 3 on Program Progression Requirements for further information on missed examinations.

*Unavoidable causes generally include:

- Serious illness or injury, supported by a medical certificate and a completed Ontario Tech University Medical Statement form (see Registrar's website)
- Death of a member of the immediate family, supported by a death certificate.
- Major interruption to transportation (that is documentable)

4.7 The determination of the unavoidable cause is at the discretion of the faculty member in consultation with the Program Director and/or Dean.

4.8 Final Examination Policy

Refer to Ontario Tech University Academic Calendar

<https://ontariotechu.ca/current-students/academics/academic-calendars/index.php>

4.9 Academic Conduct

Faculty members and students share an important responsibility to maintain the integrity of the teaching and learning relationship. This relationship is characterized by honesty, fairness, and mutual respect for the aims and principles of educational pursuits. Academic misconduct impedes the activities of the university community and

is punishable by appropriate disciplinary action.

The University and its members have the responsibility of providing an environment that does not facilitate the inadvertent commission of academic misconduct. Students and faculty should be informed about the actions that constitute academic misconduct, the procedures for initiating and resolving complaints, and the penalties for committing such acts. **A lack of familiarity with the University's policy on academic conduct on the part of the student does not constitute a defense against its application.**

4.10 Academic Misconduct

Refer to the Ontario Tech University Academic Calendar

<https://ontariotechu.ca/current-students/academics/academic-calendars/index.php>

5.0 SAFETY AND HEALTH INFORMATION

Medical Laboratory Science involves the procurement, manipulation, analysis, storage, and disposal of human samples. There is a considerable risk associated with exposure to human samples, which means that all students must be both aware of and receive adequate training before being exposed to these risks. The MLSc Program provides students with training in safety and standard precautions. **It is the responsibility of all concerned to demonstrate safe practice at all times while in the laboratory setting. Failure to do so will result in documentation using incident reports, and repeated infractions may result in removal from the program.**

5.1 Immunization

MLSc students are required to update their immunization status as a condition of admission and to maintain this status throughout their program. Please see Appendix 7.4 and the MLSc section of the Faculty of Health Science website, Pre-practicum requirements found in this link:

<https://healthsciences.ontariotechu.ca/undergraduate/programs/medical-laboratory-science/immunization-requirements.php> for further information, forms, submission deadlines, and the location of the individual to whom this information must be submitted. Canadian Police Information Center, Criminal Record Synopsis "CPIC Check"

All students in the MLSc program are required to undergo a CPIC check, which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screen, before the start of their practicum placement. The background check must be completed as close to the placement start date as possible, but no earlier than **June 1**. Students who have not provided appropriate documentation of a completed CPIC check will not be eligible for practicum placement.

All information pertaining to student CPIC checks will be kept confidential under the MLSc Program Guidelines. In the event that a student's record is not clear, a decision will be made as to the suitability of the student being accepted for placement.

Completed documentation will be verified for completeness by the Practicum Coordinator and returned to the student for safekeeping. It is the students' responsibility to maintain custody of the certified documents and produce copies as required by the clinical practicum site.

Students should be aware of the following:

- * The cost of the police record check is at the student's expense.
- * Please advise the police department that this police record check is for practicum placement purposes.
- * Two pieces of identification, one of which must be a photo ID, are required.

Exceptions to this are non-negotiable due to liability and safety regulations.

5.2 Biohazard Risks

MLSc students risk exposure to containment level 1 and 2 human biohazards during the course of working with human samples.

The routes of infection for these biohazards include injection, inhalation, absorption, and ingestion.

Exposure to these biohazards is minimized by the use of barrier protection, appropriate personal protective equipment, and adequate hand washing.

Safety training, including the proper handling of biohazardous materials, the use of barrier protection, and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment, with an emphasis on hand washing, begins upon entry to the program, and ongoing, **consistent compliance is mandatory**. References for safe laboratory practice are the Ontario Tech University Biosafety Manual and the BHSc MLSc Biosafety/Safety Manual. A more comprehensive list of safety references can be found in Appendix 7.1.

5.2.1 Exposure to Blood and Body Fluids

It is the students' responsibility to notify the laboratory instructor immediately on exposure to blood and/or body fluids. The protocol for managing this exposure is detailed in Appendix 7.3.

5.3 Other Hazards/Risks

MLSc students are also exposed to hazardous chemicals (e.g., flammables, oxidizers, toxic substances, and explosives), physical hazards (e.g., cuts, burns, ergonomic problems), and psychosocial hazards (e.g., angry patients, workplace stress). It is the University's responsibility to ensure that students and faculty are knowledgeable in the appropriate:

- Storage of chemicals,
- Use of personal protective equipment required.
- Use of other safety equipment (e.g., fume hood, safety shower),
- Use of SDS and spill kits and the location of such,
- Use of Incident Reports to document any near or actual accident or injury.

All of the above are included in the ongoing safety training and monitoring that occurs in the four years of the BHSc MLSc program.

5.3.1 Rights to Refuse

Students have the right to refuse blood collection on their person without stating a cause.

6.0 CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

The fourth year of the MLSc program is devoted to gaining experience in the clinical setting. The clinical setting can include public hospitals and private laboratories. **It is essential to note that students may be placed in clinical settings throughout the province of Ontario, and some discipline rotations may be located in a different area and at some distance from the primary clinical site.** An opportunity to apply for special consideration will be provided. Clinical placements are assigned using a tiered approach that may include a questionnaire and a random draw. **The final assignment of placement is the responsibility of the Practicum Coordinator, in consultation with the MLSc faculty.** Final assignments may not be completed until after the end of the 3rd year final exam in the winter semester.

6.1 Adverse Weather Statement

MLSc students are **NOT** expected to attend clinical sessions when the University is closed due to inclement weather. As students may be outside the University's catchment area, if a student is on a clinical practicum outside the University's catchment area and inclement weather occurs, students are advised to monitor the operations of the nearest local public post-secondary institutions. If a reasonably close post-secondary school (e.g., local College or University) is closed due to inclement weather, the student is **NOT** to attend their clinical practicum. The student should also communicate with the clinical coordinator regarding an impending weather-related absence.

6.2 Student Documentation

In accordance with Accreditation Canada - EQual™ requirements, privacy of student records and information must be assured. **To comply with this requirement, storage of student documentation is prohibited at clinical practicum sites after the student has completed their placement.** Examples include immunization records, police checks, and evaluation documents. For more information or inquiries linked to this policy, please email lavern.bourne@ontariotechu.ca or greg.hardy@ontariotechu.ca.

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 Safe Practice Resources

7.2 Notice and Acknowledgement of Risk

7.3 Protocol for Management of Student Exposure to Blood/Body Fluids During Laboratory Sessions

7.4 General Information:

- Immunization, CPIC/VS
- Confidential Information while in Practicum

7.5 Professional Conduct Evaluation Form

7.6 MLSc Program Maps

7.1 SAFE PRACTICE RESOURCES

Medical Laboratory Science Biosafety/Safety Manual

An electronic copy may be found on the MLSc component of the Faculty of Health Sciences website:

https://healthsciences.ontariotechu.ca/undergraduate/programs/medical-laboratory-science/mls_biosafety_manual/index.php

Hard copies are available in the laboratories.

Ontario Tech University Biosafety Manual

<https://shared.ontariotechu.ca/shared/departments/healthandsafety/documents/biosafety-manual-r5.pdf>

Ontario Tech University Biosafety Committee

<https://hr.ontariotechu.ca/health-and-safety/programs/biosafety-program/index.php>

8th edition of the Laboratory Safety CSMLS Guidelines Available in the laboratories.

<http://uoit.ca/EN/index.html>

NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

FOR ONTARIO TECH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN PHLEBOTOMY TRAINING AND THE HANDLING OF BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIAL (BLOOD) WITHIN THE MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROGRAM, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT CAREFULLY PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN PHLEBOTOMY TRAINING AND OTHER LABORATORY ACTIVITIES. FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF THOSE PARTICIPATING AS VOLUNTEERS, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO AGREE TO ANY ONE OF THE STATEMENTS NOTED BELOW THEN PLEASE DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN PHLEBOTOMY TRAINING UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YOU ARE ABLE TO INDICATE YOUR AGREEMENT.

I, _____, ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT:
(STUDENT NAME PRINTED)

1. I HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE THAT THERE ARE RISKS INHERENT IN PHLEBOTOMY TRAINING BOTH IN THE PROCUREMENT OF BLOOD FROM OTHERS AND IN THE INSERTION OF A NEEDLE TO DRAW BLOOD FROM ME. SPECIFICALLY, I AM AWARE THAT BLOOD IS A BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIAL, EXPOSURE TO WHICH OFFERS POTENTIAL DANGERS INCLUDING DANGERS ARISING FROM EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS, BACTERIA AND VIRUSES,
2. ONTARIO TECH UNIVERSITY HAS PROVIDED ME WITH INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND TRAINING ADVISING

ME ABOUT THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH AND ARISING FROM PHLEBOTOMY TRAINING AND THE HANDLING AND TESTING OF BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIAL AND ABOUT RECOMMENDED PRACTICE INTENDED TO MINIMIZE AND MITIGATE SUCH RISKS.

3. I AM SUFFICIENTLY FAMILIAR WITH APPROPRIATE PRACTICE AND UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING ALL RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES AND OF EXERCISING DILIGENCE, CARE AND ATTENTION WHEN PARTICIPATING IN ALL ASPECTS OF PHLEBOTOMY TRAINING AND LABORATORY TESTING OF BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIAL.

SIGNED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, _____.

PRINTED NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

7.2 PROTOCOL FOR MANAGEMENT OF STUDENT EXPOSURE TO BLOOD/BODY FLUIDS DURING LABORATORY SESSIONS

1. Immediately on exposure, the student must report to the laboratory instructor.
2. Administer First Aid.
3. It is the laboratory instructor's first responsibility to attend to the student. **At an appropriate time**, the laboratory instructor **MUST** complete an Ontario Tech University Accident/Injury report. This is to be done electronically. This form can be found at <https://healthandsafety.ontariotechu.ca/forms/accident-injury-form.php>
4. On completion and submission of the electronic form, copies are automatically sent to the Health and Safety Officer, the Insurance and Risk Management team and the Program Director. **Please ensure that the electronic copy is received.**
5. It is the responsibility of the laboratory instructor to arrange for transportation and accompany the student to one of the following emergency departments:

Lakeridge Health Oshawa

1 Hospital Court

Oshawa, ON

Tel: 905-576-8711 x 3214/4560

Fax: 905-721-4749

Lakeridge Health Ajax

580 Harwood Avenue

Ajax, ON

Tel: 905-683-2320 x 1210

Fax: 905-428-8277

Transportation to the hospital should be via Blueline Taxi Services. Blueline can be contacted at 905-440-2000. State that this is an emergency and that the taxi is to proceed to the Main Entrance of Durham College, off Commencement Drive and wait. Blueline Taxi Services chits can be found in the laboratory first aid kits.

Because the maximum benefit of immunoprophylaxis is achieved the sooner it is initiated (preferably 1 or 2 hours post exposure), the emergency department should be notified of the imminent arrival of the student so that they can be assessed immediately. See phone numbers above.

6. If an alternate instructor is not immediately available to replace the laboratory instructor attending the student, the Faculty of Health Sciences reception desk, at extension 3166, is to be called to help arrange for another instructor or staff member to come to the laboratory to remain with the second instructor and students. If an alternate instructor or staff member cannot be found and it is not considered safe to continue the laboratory session with only one instructor, the students are to be excused from the laboratory.
7. As the student may be very anxious about the risk of contracting HIV, the following information can be shared with the student en-route to Health and Wellness:
7.3 The average risk for HIV infection from all types of reported percutaneous exposures to HIV infected blood or body fluid is 0.3%. The average risks after mucus membrane and skin exposure to HIV infected blood or body fluids are 0.1% and less than 0.1%, respectively. Conversely, greater than 99% of exposed individuals will **not** become infected.

7.4

7.5 GENERAL INFORMATION

Immunization, CPIC/VS

NOTE: The up-to-date summary of this information, along with all necessary documents, is available on the MLSc component of the Faculty of Health Sciences website.

<https://healthsciences.ontariotechu.ca/undergraduate/programs/medical-laboratory-science/pre-practicum-requirements.php>.

Immunization Requirement for students entering the second year of the program, including all bridging students

Pre-Placement Requirement Clearance Information Medical Laboratory Science Year 2 Students

*In partnership with **Synergy Gateway Inc.***

Ontario Tech University has partnered with Synergy Gateway Inc. to provide support and clearance for pre-placement requirements. To have your documents validated you will be required to book an Electronic Requirements Verification (ERV) review through **Verified**, a proprietary platform that is used by students across Ontario for the purpose of digitally collecting placement requirements and documentation for verification. Log in details to [Verified](#) will be sent to your school email account once the system is up and running for our programs.

DEADLINE

Pre-Placement Requirements Due: July 31

YOUR ERV REVIEW

Be sure to review the list of pre-placement requirements below and have plan when and how you will be completing them. It is important to remember that some requirements may take an extended time to complete.

Once your access is activated, book an ERV review through your *Verified* account. For help on how to navigate *Verified*, please log in and go to Important Forms. There you will find user guides to assist you with the process.

You are encouraged to *book* your review early, even if you do not have all documentation in place. Do not wait until a week or two before the deadline to book your review; review times will fill.

Ensure all your pre-placement documents are uploaded to your account by 9:00 am (EST) on the day of your ERV review. You do not need to be "present" on the day of your review – this is the date that Synergy Gateway retrieves your documents for review.

To avoid paying additional review fees, ensure all your documentation has been uploaded *before* 9am (EST) of your ERV review date. If documents are outstanding at this time, you will not be cleared for

placement. If documentation is missing or a requirement is not complete, you will need to book a follow-up review for an additional fee.

You will receive a Pre-Placement Completion Certificate (stamped document) once your documents have been reviewed. *Keep this for your records.*

Synergy Gateway Inc. is *not* the authority on Ontario Tech University policies and deadlines. Please check with **School Email** if you have questions about anything related to pre-placement requirements.

Please upload for your review:

- Immunization medical form
- Blood work/lab reports (as required)
- Certification cards (as required)
- Originals of all documents

STUDENT FEES

Initial Clearance Review	\$ 50.50 +HST
Missed Review	\$ 50.50 +HST
Follow-up Review	\$ 10.00 +HST

Synergy Gateway is here to help! Contact Synergy Gateway at www.Synergyhelps.com - Submit a Help Desk ticket and they will be in touch. Their Help Desk hours are Monday to Friday, 10am – 3pm (EST), excluding holidays.

**** Important Note****

Please ensure your documents are valid until the end of your placement period. Students with requirements expiring during the placement period must renew (before expiry) and provide updated documentation to Verified by Synergy Gateway Inc. to continue to be eligible for placement. This will require another ERV review at FULL service fees. To avoid multiple review fees, we suggest you update all expiring documents in one review

PRE-PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST	
MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS <i>* Students with certifications/requirements expiring during the placement period must renew (before expiry) and provide updated documentation to Verified by Synergy Gateway Inc. to continue to be eligible for placement. This will require</i>	COMPLETED WITH DOCUMENTATION
Immunization Form Can Be Found In The Important Forms Section Of Your Profile	
Immunization and Medical Form completed by your Health Care professional and supporting documents. THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND UPLOADED.	
Upload to Permit Form/Medical Documents Folder:	
Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis Documented proof of vaccination for tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis in the last 10	
Polio Proof of vaccination	
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Bloodwork Proof of blood work results showing immunity is mandatory	
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccinations If bloodwork is not immune documented proof of two vaccinations is required. One of the doses must be after the bloodwork results	
Varicella Documented proof of two vaccinations or blood work results showing immunity	
Hepatitis B Surface Antibody Serology – Mandatory. You must submit proof of Hepatitis B Surface Antibody blood test results.	
Hepatitis B Vaccinations – Proof of primary series of vaccinations is required. If your serology results show you are not immune, then boosters will be required. To obtain conditional clearance you must show proof of 2 doses minimum You can have up to 3 additional boosters. To obtain conditional clearance you will need to show proof that a booster has been administered.	
Tuberculosis (Mantoux) – 2 Step TB Skin Test (+ 1-Step Test if required) Documented proof of a baseline 2-step TB Skin Test (TST). If 2-Step TST was completed <i>more than</i> 12 months ago, please submit it along with a current 1 step TB test. A medical follow-up with chest x-ray is required if a person has EVER had a documented positive TB Skin Test.	
Upload to Annual Vaccinations Folder:	
Influenza Optional. Influenza immunization is not usually available until October and takes 2 weeks to become effective therefore students should obtain the vaccine as soon as it becomes available.	

COVID-19 Vaccination Receipts Documented proof of a completed primary series. Vaccinations received before Oct 2023 require to show proof of 2 doses. Pfizer, Moderna or Jassen/Jhonson & Jhonson doses after Oct 2023 are a single dose series	
** Note: Please ensure that your school immunization medical form is completed with all the information stated above. Clearance will not be issued without a completed school form signed by an HCP.	
NON-MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS <i>* Students with certifications/requirements expiring during the placement period must renew (before expiry) and provide updated documentation to Verified by Synergy Gateway Inc. to continue to be eligible for placement. This will require another ERV Review and there will be a charge for this Review.</i>	
None	

Immunization Requirement for students entering the fourth year of the program

Pre-Practicum Requirement Clearance Information Medical Laboratory Science Year 4 Students

In partnership with **Synergy Gateway Inc.**

Ontario Tech University has partnered with Synergy Gateway Inc. to provide support and clearance for pre-placement requirements. To have your documents validated you will be required to book an Electronic Requirements Verification (ERV) review through **Verified**, a proprietary platform that is used by students across Ontario for the purpose of digitally collecting placement requirements and documentation for verification. Log in details to [Verified](#) will be sent to your school email account once the system is up and running for our programs.

DEADLINE

Pre-Placement Requirements Due: June 15

YOUR ERV REVIEW

Be sure to review the list of pre-placement requirements below and have plan when and how you will be completing them. It is important to remember that some requirements may take an extended time to complete.

Once your access is activated, book an ERV review through your *Verified* account. For help on how to navigate *Verified*, please log in and go to Important Forms. There you will find user guides to assist you with the process.

You are encouraged to *book* your review early, even if you do not have all documentation in place. Do not wait until a week or two before the deadline to book your review; review times will fill.



Ensure all your pre-placement documents are uploaded to your account by 9:00 am (EST) on the day of your ERV review. You do not need to be "present" on the day of your review – this is the date that Synergy Gateway retrieves your documents for review.

To avoid paying additional review fees, ensure all your documentation has been uploaded *before* 9am (EST) of your ERV review date. If documents are outstanding at this time, you will not be cleared for placement. If documentation is missing or a requirement is not complete, you will need to book a follow-up review for an additional fee.

You will receive a Pre-Placement Completion Certificate (stamped document) once your documents have been reviewed. *Keep this for your records.*

Synergy Gateway Inc. is *not* the authority on Ontario Tech University policies and deadlines. Please check with Marsha.Townsend@ontariotechu.ca if you have questions about anything related to pre-placement requirements.

Please upload for your review:

- Immunization medical form
- Blood work/lab reports (as required)
- Certification cards (as required)
- Originals of all documents

STUDENT FEES

Initial Clearance Review	\$ 50.50 +HST
Missed Review	\$ 50.50 +HST
Follow-up Review	\$ 10.00 +HST

Synergy Gateway is here to help! Contact Synergy Gateway at www.Synergyhelps.com - Submit a Help Desk ticket and they will be in touch. Their Help Desk hours are Monday to Friday, 10am – 3pm (EST), excluding holidays.

**** Important Note****

Please ensure your documents are valid until the end of your placement period. Students with requirements expiring during the placement period must renew (before expiry) and provide updated documentation to Verified by Synergy Gateway Inc. to continue to be eligible for placement. This will require another ERV review at FULL service fees. To avoid multiple review fees, we suggest you update all expiring documents in one review

PRE-PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST	
MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS <i>* Students with certifications/requirements expiring during the placement period must renew (before expiry) and provide updated documentation to Verified by Synergy Gateway Inc. to continue to be eligible for placement.</i>	COMPLETED WITH DOCUMENTATION
Immunization Form Can Be Found In The Important Forms Section Of Your Profile	
Immunization and Medical Form completed by your Health Care professional and supporting documents. THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND UPLOADED.	
Upload to Permit Form/Medical Documents Folder:	
Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis Documented proof of vaccination for tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis in the last	
Tuberculosis (Mantoux) – 1 Step TB Skin Test Documented proof of a baseline 1-step TB Skin Test (TST). A medical follow-up with chest x-ray is required if a person has EVER had a documented positive TB	
Upload to Annual Vaccinations Folder:	
Influenza Optional. Influenza immunization is not usually available until October and takes 2 weeks to become effective therefore students should obtain the vaccine	
COVID-19 Vaccination Receipts Documented proof of a completed primary series. Vaccinations received before Oct 2023 require to show proof of 2 doses. Pfizer, Moderna or Jassen/Jhonson & Jhonson doses after Oct 2023 are a single dose series	
** Note: Please ensure that your school immunization medical form is completed with all the information stated above. Clearance will not be issued without a completed school form signed by an HCP.	
NON-MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS <i>* Students with certifications/requirements expiring during the placement period must renew (before expiry) and provide updated documentation to Verified by Synergy Gateway Inc. to continue to be eligible for placement. This will require another ERV Review and there will be a charge for this Review.</i>	
Upload to VSS/ Criminal Record Check Folder:	

Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) Your local police department can provide a VSS. Valid for 1 year	
Upload to Mask Fit Folder:	
Mask Fit Testing Valid for 2 years	
Upload to Health & Safety Certificates Folder:	
Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Modules – 6 Required Valid for 1 year - Occupational Health and Safety - Chain of Transmission and Risk Assessment - Healthcare Provider Controls - Control of the Environment - Administrative Controls - Additional Precautions	
Worker Health & Safety Training Ministry of Labour "Health & Safety at Work" Does not expire	
Workplace Violence and Prevention Training Does not expire	
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Documented proof of course completion	
Upload to Consent Form Folder: Consent Forms can be Found in the Important Forms section of your profile	
WSIB Student Declaration Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities Work Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) coverage policy document; student signature required.	

Confidential Information while in Practicum

Students in the Medical Laboratory Science program will have access to and be exposed to confidential information about clients, clinical partners, fellow students, and the program while participating in practicum. Students are expected to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of information at all times in accordance with legislation, University and clinical partner policies, and professional standards.

In particular, it is expected that students will:

- Access information only under the direction and supervision of their clinical instructor and/or only as required for practicum-related purposes.
- Only share or discuss client and clinical partner information when necessary, with authorized individuals, and in a location where the confidentiality of that information can be strictly maintained.
- Be familiar with and follow the University and clinical partners' policies, procedures and principles regarding privacy and confidentiality.
- Discuss any questions or concerns with the clinical instructor and/or the Practicum Coordinator.

Failure to observe obligations related to the confidentiality of information may result in sanctions under the University's Academic Conduct regulations, up to and including dismissal from the University. Students may also face consequences under the respective clinical partner's policies.

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROGRAM PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT EVALUATION

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Class of : _____

Evaluator _____

The student is expected to integrate the stated professional competencies when performing their daily activities. Please use the following ratings for each competency.

Ratings:

Green = Full ability to perform the competency

Yellow = Limited ability to perform the competency

Red = Clear inability to perform the competency

[?] PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FOR EACH CRITERION.

COMPETENCY	CAMLPR COMP	GREEN	YELLOW	RED	COMMENTS
Communicates Clearly and Effectively The ability of the student to effectively receive and convey information and facilitate the interpersonal and interdisciplinary/interprofessional relationships needed to support safe and effective patient care. Abilities reflective of this competency could include, but are not limited to: - Practices effective communication with colleagues, patients/clients and other health care professionals: - Active listening e.g. attend, encourage and paraphrase - Verbal communication e.g. courtesy, confidence, respect - Non-verbal communication - Written communication e.g. legible, accurate, spelling, grammar - Conflict management - Identifying barriers to effective communication - Using technology appropriately to facilitate communication - Demonstrates adaptive skills when interacting with patients/clients - Obtains informed consent prior to procedure and respects patient's right to refuse					

COMPETENCY	CAMLPR COMP	GREEN	YELLOW	RED	COMMENTS
• Selects appropriate means to convey a message using appropriate terminology • Speaks and writes clearly and coherently • Asks questions for clarification e.g. dangerous or unusual situations • Reads for content, structural analysis and word meanings • Gives and receives focused feedback • Positively promotes the MLT profession during communications and interactions with all clients • Discusses current issues with colleagues to develop abilities in reflective processes e.g. clinical, technical, professional					
Takes Responsibility for One's Own Actions The ability of the student to understand their role within a health care team and their importance to the quality of patient care and acknowledge, reflect on and take responsibility for their own actions Abilities reflective of this competency could include, but are not limited to: • Recognizes limitations of own competence and seeks action to resolve • Recognizes potentially dangerous situations and understands the right to refuse unsafe work • Takes responsibility and is accountable for professional actions e.g. punctuality, safe practice, respectful treatment of others (verbal and physical), clean and organized laboratory work space • Acknowledges one's role in group activities • Reviews the results of one's actions • Identifies the successes and problems resulting from one's actions and make adaptations • Accepts feedback on behaviour identified as inappropriate					
Demonstrates Ethical Decision Making The ability of the student to learn, practice and model professional behaviour in their work with patients and as part of the health care team using articulated standards of ethical practice as a guide. Abilities reflective of this competency could include, but are not limited to: • Adheres to expectations of Academic Integrity as outlined by Ontario Tech • Maintains confidentiality of healthcare information • Recognizes how ethical issues in the health care environment affect the medical laboratory technologist and clients					

COMPETENCY	CAMLPR COMP	GREEN	YELLOW	RED	COMMENTS
- Adheres to professional and institutional Codes of Ethics - Conducts all aspects of education and practice with honesty and integrity					
Works Effectively in a Team The ability of the student to effectively collaborate with others to maximize patient safety and the quality of care. Abilities reflective of this competency could include, but are not limited to: - Demonstrates interdisciplinary/interprofessional team skills: - Communication - Collaboration - Role clarification - Reflection - Demonstrates effective teamwork skills - Offers opinions, ideas, and suggestions as appropriate to help resolve workplace challenges; accepts feedback graciously - Contributes to the development and knowledge of team members (professional roles) - Accepts the input and contribution of others with respect - Participates in decision making related to patient care - Contributes own ideas, opinion and information while demonstrating respect for others - Contributes to the development of shared team values and ethical principles - Reaches mutual agreement - Synthesizes and analyses information from colleagues, instructors, and other health professionals to develop skill base - Demonstrates dependability					
Solves Problems Using a Variety of Strategies The ability of the student to solve problems in practice and apply these techniques in multiple contexts. Abilities reflective of this competency could include, but are not limited to: - Demonstrates effective problem solving/troubleshooting strategies and initiates appropriate follow up - Recognizes when there is a problem to be solved (including conflict)					

COMPETENCY	CAMLPR COMP	GREEN	YELLOW	RED	COMMENTS
- Clarifies issues using non-judgemental language - Selects the thinking skills and strategies which could be used to solve the problem (e.g. inductive and deductive thinking, brainstorming, clustering) - Implements the preferred solution i.e. works toward mutual agreement through negotiation - Seeks assistance for resolution as required					
Utilizes Reflective Practice for Personal and Professional Development The ability of the student to use self-reflection for the purpose of personal and professional growth. Abilities reflective of this competency could include, but are not limited to: - Engages in reflective practice; stops and thinks about practice, consciously analyzes decision making and draws conclusions to improve future practices - Practices evidence-based decision-making skills such as literature review, data analysis and research methodologies/studies - Recognizes the need for and participates in continuing education and training - Reflects and evaluates his/her own professional behaviour during stressful situations - Clarifies the nature and extent of problems or required directions - Explores various thinking skills and strategies that could be used e.g. inductive and deductive thinking, creative and intuitive thinking, inquiry and critical thinking, reflection - Identifies limits as well as the potential of own thought processes i.e. seeks help when unclear about task - Applies knowledge across disciplines e.g. quality control tasks completed, phone calls completed with accuracy - Evaluates results of thinking skills and strategies used in problem solving and decision making e.g. improved decision making, time management					
Manages the Use of Time and Resources to Complete Tasks and Attain Goals The ability of the student to manage time and resources effectively across multiple contexts for the purpose of optimizing patient care. Abilities reflective of this competency could include, but are not limited to: - Organizes work to accommodate priorities - Maximizes efficient use of resources e.g. time, equipment, materials, money, information, support systems, personnel - Contributes to implementation strategies that integrate timelines, resource management and					

COMPETENCY	CAMLPR COMP	GREEN	YELLOW	RED	COMMENTS
communication related to projects or research/studies • Sets reasonable and realistic goals • Uses appropriate planning tools (checklists, schedules) to achieve goals e.g. daily activity completion, workload completion, etc. • Monitors process and expectations, and makes necessary adjustments • Begins to develop personal strategies and behaviours that integrate timelines and are mindful of resources					
Models the Professional Role of the MLT The ability of the student to exercise professional responsibilities, including their role within and inter/intraprofessional environment. Abilities reflective of this competency could include, but are not limited to: • Adheres to Standards of Practice • Demonstrates knowledge of the health care system, professional laboratory organizations and their responsibilities • Demonstrates knowledge of the determinants of health and their implications for the laboratory system • Promotes the image and status of the profession of medical laboratory science as members of the health care team • Complies with legislations that govern medical laboratory technology • Respects the diversity, dignity, values, and beliefs of patients/clients and colleagues • Demonstrates knowledge of interpersonal skills: ○ Recognizes signs of individual and group stress ○ Recognizes signs of patient stress ○ Exhibits empathy when assisting patients and colleagues • Identifies own learning needs and actively seeks out required knowledge and training • Conforms to professional and institutional standards e.g. dress code, punctuality, no cell phones, etc. • Plans with other HCPs to provide patient care e.g. phone calls to answer questions, report to public health, infection control • Adapts to change: ○ Demonstrates knowledge of a dynamic environment; adapts and responds to change ○ Recognizes that change initiated in one area may impact other areas of health care services ○ Reacts to critical situations with competence ○ Demonstrates understanding when changes in schedule occur					

(Discipline) PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT EVALUATION SUMMARY SHEET

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

No. of Yellow or Red	Communicates clearly and effectively
	Takes responsibility for one's own actions
	Demonstrates ethical decision making
	Works effectively in a team
	Solves problems using a variety of strategies
	Utilizes reflective practice for personal and professional growth
	Manages the use of time and resources to complete tasks and attain goals
	Models the professional role of the MLT
	TOTAL YELLOW OR RED

Learning Plan(s) Required: ☐ No ☐ Yes

Signatures: Clinical Representative: _____

Date Issued: _____

Student: _____
read, and understand the evaluation.

Date: _____ I have

**Note: Must be signed by Clinical Representative to be valid. Comments:

Interview requested by student: ☐ No ☐ Yes

Interview requested by Program Coordinator: ☐ No ☐ Yes

7.6 MLSc PROGRAM MAPS

Please refer to the Ontario Tech University Health Science website for program maps.

<https://healthsciences.ontariotechu.ca/undergraduate/programs/medical-laboratory-science/program-maps.php>