Clinical Laboratory Assistant
Certificate Programs

Program Information and Admissions Requirements for Clinical Laboratory Assistant

**Application Deadline:** Admission to the Academy of Health Professions is on a rolling basis. Applicants are admitted on a space available basis as their applications, including all requirements, are completed. Although there is no deadline, students are encouraged to apply early, as space is limited.

**Special Note Regarding Residency:** Non-Massachusetts residents will be admitted on a space available basis.
Program Description: Level III of the Academy of Health Professions at Middlesex Community College offers a certificate of Clinical Laboratory Assistant. The Clinical Laboratory Assistant certificate is designed to prepare students for entry level positions in clinical laboratory settings. Clinical Laboratory Assistants are members of the healthcare team and perform a variety of duties under the supervision of a medical laboratory scientist, nurse or other medical personnel. Duties may include data entry, specimen procurement and sample processing, basic laboratory testing, patient processing and secretarial work. The Certificate program includes an introduction to fundamental laboratory skills as well as clinical externships at approved affiliates. Upon successful completion of the program a Clinical Laboratory Assistant Certificate is awarded. Students who complete the program are also eligible to sit for a national phlebotomy certification exam.

Career and Transfer Outlook: Upon completion of the program, graduates are eligible for employment in a variety of healthcare settings. Career opportunities may include phlebotomist, laboratory specimen processor, waived testing analyzer, medical research assistant, and physician office laboratory assistant. Clinical Laboratory Assistant students with aptitude and an interest could matriculate into an Associate Degree Laboratory Science program after completing the CLA program.

Program Specifics
- All classes are held at the Lowell campus.
- Time commitment: Courses are offered in a variety of formats including days and evenings and weekends. Please contact an admission representative for detailed class times.
- An exam week will be provided at the conclusion of each 8 week semester
- Homework averages two to three hours of study/reading for each hour in class.
- Students are responsible for purchase of uniforms and textbooks.
- Transportation to any off-site clinical sites is not provided.
- The cost of attendance will be at the prevailing college rate. Rates are subject to change.

Standard Skills for Clinical Laboratory Assistant: The following is a list of standard and/or technical skills required for performing duties as a Clinical Laboratory Assistant. These skills are not conditions for admission to the program, but do indicate abilities and characteristics necessary for successful completion of this program and to perform duties required by the career upon graduation.

- Good communication skills in responding to patients or following directions and requests in conversation, by telephone or other electronic communication devices.
- Exhibit a professional attitude and pleasant manner at all times.
- Ability to lift up to 20 pounds from the floor to waste level
- Use common medical terminology
- Visual ability to differentiate color reactions (special stains, dipsticks) and perform microscopic analysis when indicated
- Sufficient motor skills needed to perform phlebotomy safely and proficiently and prepare/reconstitute reagents, standards and controls using proper pipetting technique.
- Ability to use information systems necessary to accomplish job functions.
- Perform and record vital sign measurements
- Follow standard safety precautions and infection control procedures.
- Identify and report potential pre-analytical errors that may occur during specimen collection, labeling, transporting and processing.
- Follow established quality control protocols
- Perform appropriate tests at clinical assistant level, according to standard operating procedures.

Getting Started:
Review and follow the Clinical Laboratory Assistant Certification Requirement form to ensure that you have met the admission criteria listed below:
- Receive minimum testing scores for eligibility of ENG 101-English Composition I, MAT 070-Algebra I or MAT 001-Preparation for College Math (completion of modules 1-4) and have a reading score of 68 within one year prior to the application deadline
**Submitting a Complete Application:**

If you meet the admission requirements, the following forms must be submitted.

- A signed Clinical Laboratory Assistant Admission Requirement Certification form
- A completed Middlesex Community College Application
- Official High School transcripts or GED documentation
- Official College Transcripts (required from all colleges attended, except Middlesex Community College)

**Admissions Information:** The availability of appropriate clinical placement sites, an integral component of the program, requires us to limit admission. The Admission committee will review applications in their entirety. Academic history will also be considered and students are required to have a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA. Non-Massachusetts residents will be admitted on space available basis only.

**Requirements after Admission to the Clinical Laboratory Assistant Certificate**

- Students must submit the Student Health Record form, provided by Middlesex Community College, to the Center for Health & Wellness. Required documentation of health status includes a completed physical examination, a two-step Mantoux (TB/PPD) skin test or blood test (T-Spot or Quantiferon Gold) for tuberculosis, a color deficiency test, proof of immunization against Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B, Varicella, and one lifetime dose of TDAP (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Acellular Pertussis – after 2006).

- **Students must have transportation available to them for travel to the program’s externships.**

- **Students enrolled in the Clinical Laboratory Assistant Certificate program must demonstrate a satisfactory level of performance in clinical settings in order to remain in the program. See the Academic Catalog for additional information.**

- Students must receive a C or better in clinical related courses to remain in the program.

**Criminal Offender Record Information and Sex Offender Registry Information Checks:** In order for a student to be eligible to participate in an academic, community or clinical program that involves potential unsupervised contact with children, the disabled, or the elderly, the student may be required to undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check and/or a Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) check. Students found to have certain criminal convictions or pending criminal actions will be presumed ineligible to participate in such activities. The College is authorized by the Commonwealth’s Criminal History Systems Board, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 6, Sections 167-178B, to access CORI records. The College shall refer to regulations issues by the Commonwealth’s Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 101 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 15.00-15.16, as guidance when assessing student CORI records. Sex Offender checks shall be performed pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 6, Sections 178C-178P. If a student is allowed to enroll or participate in such a program despite having certain criminal convictions or pending for criminal actions, this is no guarantee that a future employer would also disregard such criminal record.

Some clinical sites may require that students undergo CORI checks for any state that they have lived in for the past 5-7 years. In these cases, students will be responsible for the cost of these additional CORI checks.

For more information regarding the College’s CORI/SORI check process, please contact MCC’s Human Resources Department at 781-280-3532.

**Services Available to Middlesex Community College Students:**

Advising is available in our Academic Planning Centers. Academic advising is a valuable service, since all applicants are responsible for fulfilling the precise requirements of the program in order to be considered for admission. Advising appointments may be made by calling 1-800-818-3434.

Students are encouraged to apply for Financial Aid to help meet the expenses of attending college. The Financial Aid Office packages awards for each student, based upon the student’s eligibility and financial need, fund restrictions and fund availability. General information is available at the Student Information Centers, or by calling the Financial Aid Offices in Bedford 781-280-3850 or Lowell 978-656-3242.
## Level III Curriculum – Clinical Laboratory Assistant Certificate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module I</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Laboratory Science</td>
<td>CLS 101</td>
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<td>Successful completion of ELL 055, ELL 075 and ELL 085 or placement by exam.</td>
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<td>Medical Terminology</td>
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<td><strong>Module II</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Anatomy &amp; Physiology</td>
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<td>Placement above or successful completion of ENG 060</td>
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<td>Preparation for College Math</td>
<td>MAT 001(5-8)</td>
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<td>Phlebotomy Theory &amp; Lab</td>
<td>AHP 106</td>
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<td>Completion of or placement above ENG 070 or ENG 071; completion of MAS 101; completion of AHP level 1 or comparable experience in a health field</td>
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<td>Basic Clinical Lab Theory/Techniques</td>
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