



# College of Health Sciences

## Department of Medical Laboratory Science

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### Certification and Licensure

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#### **Additional requirements necessary to practice Medical Laboratory Science in the State of Louisiana**

The following information addresses some of the important questions that are frequently asked by medical laboratory science students as they approach the completion of their formal education program.

- 1. Do I have to pass a certification exam in Medical Laboratory Science before I can graduate?**

**Answer:** No. Your degree in MLS is based solely on the satisfactory completion of the course requirements in the MLS curriculum.

- 2. What is a “certification test” and when do I take it?**

**Answer:** A certification test is an examination given by a medical laboratory science organization that verifies mastery of a certain body of knowledge in the field of medical laboratory science.

The organization that sponsors the certification examination for the Medical Laboratory Scientist is the Board of Certification of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) [www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org). Following graduation, you must apply to take the examination. An application form must be completed and an application fee submitted. Check the ASCP BOC website for the correct fee schedule and testing dates/locations. Following successful completion of the examination, the certificant will be credentialed as a Medical Laboratory Scientist and can use the credentials, MLS (ASCP), behind his/her name.

**3. Is “certification” the same as “licensure”?**

**Answer:** No. Certification means that the individual has completed an examination that certifies that he/she has mastered a certain amount of information in the field of medical laboratory science. Licensure is a state law that mandates that only licensed individuals can practice the profession in the state.

**4. How do I become licensed in the state of Louisiana?**

**Answer:** The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME) has a website, [www.lsbme.la.gov](http://www.lsbme.la.gov), which includes the checklist of items that the applicant must provide or complete to receive a license in medical (clinical) laboratory science. The applicant should refer to the above website for updates.

**Important:** As part of the licensing process, the State of Louisiana is required by the Medical Practice Act, R. S. 37:1277(C) to do a **criminal background investigation** through the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Federal Bureau of Investigations on **all applicants**. The LSBME Office of Investigations and Enforcement, as a matter of routine, reviews and investigates (1) reports of a criminal history from the Department of Corrections and/or FBI and (2) incidents where the applicant has not truthfully answered related questions on the application **either of which may lead to delays and/or denial of licensure.**

**The application for the certification examination and for the license is strictly the responsibility of the student. Failure to supply the necessary information to the above agencies will result in delay and/or rejection.**