Position Statement

CSMLS Certification and Entry-Level Requirements for Medical Laboratory Technologists

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) believes that CSMLS national certification must be the entry-level qualification for Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs) in Canada. The CSMLS competency profiles equip MLTs with the required skills and knowledge to provide high-quality medical laboratory services and function as members of multi-disciplinary health care teams, thereby enhancing the quality of patient care for all Canadians.

MLTs analyze specimens, perform medical laboratory tests and interpret test results. Accurate medical testing, analysis, and interpretation are essential to diagnosing illness, treating disease, and maintaining overall health and wellness.

In addition to keeping pace with rapid advances in medical laboratory science, MLTs must be prepared to function within multi-disciplinary health care teams. Consequently, entry-level MLTs must develop diverse technical and broad-based skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication.

The CSMLS is the body responsible for national certification. The CSMLS:

- Develops competency profiles in consultation with employers, practitioners, regulators and educators
- Establishes policies relating to the national certification exams
- Appoints candidates to the Examination Panels
- Revises profiles regularly to include all pertinent, current, and emerging scientific information.

CSMLS currently offers entry-level MLT certification in three areas: General Medical Laboratory Technology, Diagnostic Cytology, and Clinical Genetics.

CSMLS national certification ensures that MLTs possess the skills and knowledge they require to provide patients with high quality laboratory services.

References:

CSMLS Competency Profile

Competencies Expected of an Entry-Level Medical Laboratory Technologists

Regulation of Medical Laboratory Professionals