

Position Statement

CSMLS Certification and Entry-Level Requirements for Medical Laboratory Assistants

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) believes that CSMLS national certification must be the entry-level qualification for Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs) in Canada. The CSMLS competency profile equips MLAs 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.

MLAs play a vital role in the provision of laboratory services in Canada. Their work relates primarily to the pre-analytical phase of laboratory testing, including specimen collection, specimen preparation, and data entry.

In addition to keeping pace with rapid advances in medical laboratory science, MLAs must be prepared to demonstrate strong interprofessional collaboration skills as they are required to interact with a variety of healthcare professionals, patients, and clients. Consequently, entry-level medical laboratory assistants must develop diverse technical and broad-based skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication.

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science is the body responsible for national certification. The CSMLS:

- Develops competency profiles in consultation with employers, practitioners, 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 MLA certification.

CSMLS national certification ensures that MLAs possess the knowledge and skills required to provide patients with high-quality medical laboratory services.

References:

CSMLS Competency Profile

Competencies Expected of an Entry-Level Medical Laboratory Assistant

Regulation of Medical Laboratory Professionals