BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCES WITH A MAJOR IN MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC SCIENCES

The bachelor of science in health sciences with a major in molecular diagnostic sciences program provides students with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed for positions in diagnostic clinical molecular laboratories, public health laboratories, biotechnology companies, government agencies, law enforcement agencies, and research institutes. In addition, students who complete the program are eligible to take the Molecular Biology Board of Certification examination offered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

This program is offered in hybrid and fully online options.

Visit the program website (https://bls.smhs.gwu.edu/programs/bshs-molecular-diagnostic-sciences/) for more information.

ADMISSIONS

| Admission Deadlines |  
|---|---|
| Fall: July 15 |  
| Spring: November 15 |  
| Summer: March 15 |  

Standardized SAT/ACT optional test scores:

Recommendation(s) required:

A resumé or curriculum vitae is required.

The minimum acceptable grade is C for coursework to be applied toward an undergraduate degree (grades of C- and below do not transfer to GW SMHS programs).

Prerequisites:

At least 45 semester hours of college with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 and science GPA of 2.5 from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning. Students applying under a Guaranteed Admission Agreement must have a cumulative GPA of 2.75. All should include the following coursework:

- English composition (6 credits)
- General Biology with lab (8 credits) Hands on lab required
- General or inorganic chemistry with lab (8 credits) - Hands on lab required
- Microbiology with lab (4 credits) Hands on lab required
- Organic chemistry or biochemistry (3 credits)
- College mathematics (college algebra, statistics or above—3 credits)

International applicants only: The hybrid and fully online options are not visa eligible. Permanent residents or those with a valid visa (e.g. work), if eligible, may apply to the hybrid program.

International students with an MLT certification may apply to the online program without needing a visa if they have an approved clinical site in their geographic region.

Non-traditional credit sources may be considered on a case-by-case basis (i.e. military coursework, credit-by-exam, and non-college based health programs). Information on transfer credit eligibility may be found in the Bulletin under Regulations (see Transfer Credit/Advanced Standing for Undergraduates), including minimum letter grade requirements.

Statement of purpose: All applicants are required to submit a 250–500 word essay describing your reasons for undertaking study at the George Washington University. Focus on your academic objectives, career goals and related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and extra-curricular activities relevant to your program of interest. Include any substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application form as well as obstacles you have overcome that influenced your desire to pursue this program of study.

Additional requirements offered at VSTC or a fully online format for applicants with MLT certification. Applicants with MLT certification are required to submit verification of national MLT certification, such as ASCP or AMT or has graduated from an accredited MLT program within the past 6 months.

All students must meet Essential Functions requirements, and successfully meet the criminal background check and drug screen requirements (https://smhs.gwu.edu/academics/health-sciences/academics/admissions/background-checks-and-drug-screenings/)).

Applicants may receive credit for college-level coursework through International Baccalaureate (IB) or College Board Advanced Placement (AP) examinations. Official score results must be forwarded directly from the College Board. Please refer to GW Undergraduate Admissions (https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/) for information on minimum credits, minimum scores, and GW course equivalents for AP and IB credits.

Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended (including via dual enrollment), whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Transcripts must be forwarded in their original sealed envelopes. Official transcript may also be sent electronically directly from the institution.

Applicants must include sufficient coursework through International Baccalaureate (IB) or College Board Advanced Placement (AP) examinations. Official score results must be forwarded directly from the College Board. Please refer to GW Undergraduate Admissions (https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/) for information on minimum credits, minimum scores, and GW course equivalents for AP and IB credits.

The program of study consists of a hybrid format purpose requirement of at least 30 credits for students applying under a Guaranteed Admission Agreement must have a cumulative GPA of 2.75. All should include the following coursework:

- English composition (6 credits)
- General Biology with lab (8 credits) Hands on lab required
- General or inorganic chemistry with lab (8 credits) - Hands on lab required
- Microbiology with lab (4 credits) Hands on lab required
- Organic chemistry or biochemistry (3 credits)
- College mathematics (college algebra, statistics or above—3 credits)

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Official transcripts from institutions outside the U.S. must be accompanied by an official transcript evaluation from an accredited independent evaluating agency. Please be sure you request a detailed evaluation that includes all course titles, credit hours, grades, U.S. degree equivalency, grade-point averages (GPA), and date of degree conferral. For a list of acceptable foreign credential evaluation services, please click here (https://www.naces.org/members.php).

Applicants who are not U.S. citizens are required to submit official test scores for either Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or Pearson’s Test of English (PTE) Academic or the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The following are the minimum scores for admission consideration:

- TOEFL: 100 on the Internet-based exam,
- PTE: overall score of 68, or
- IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0, with no individual band score below 6.0

International applicants who meet the following conditions may be considered for admission without submitting TOEFL, PTE or IELTS scores:

- They are a citizen of countries where English is the official language (as identified by GW ISO list of Exempt countries) OR;
- They hold at least a bachelor’s degree from a country where English is the official language as well as language of instruction OR;
- They hold at least a bachelor’s degree from an institution accredited by a U.S. regional accrediting agency.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

George Washington University
ATTN: Transcript Processing Center
8300 Norman Center Dr
Suite 400
Bloomington, MN 55437

Alternatively, official electronic transcripts can be sent to transcripts@hsprograms.gwu.edu.

Contact for questions:
hsphora@gwu.edu
202-994-0384 (phone)
202-994-0870 (fax)
Hours: 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday

**REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 120 credits in required and elective courses; at least 60 of these credits must be taken at GW.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required prerequisite courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 credits of English composition</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 credits in general biology with laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 credits in general chemistry with lab</td>
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<td>3 credits in humanities</td>
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<td>3 credits in quantitative reasoning (college algebra, statistics, or higher)</td>
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<td>6 credits in in social sciences</td>
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<td>11 credits in elective courses</td>
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<td><strong>Required and elective courses that may be transferred in or taken at GW</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits in biotechnology (HSCI 1106 if taken at GW)</td>
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<td>3 credits in organic chemistry or biochemistry (MLS 3003 if taken at GW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 credits in microbiology w/lab (HSCI 3106 and HSCI 3108 if taken at GW)</td>
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<td>5 credits in elective courses</td>
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<td><strong>Required courses and electives that must be taken at GW</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>CERT 3005</td>
<td>Current Topics in Biomedical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLS 2007W</td>
<td>Microbes and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>or HSCI 2112W</td>
<td>Writing in the Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>or HSCI 4112W</td>
<td>Research and Writing in Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLS 3000</td>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLS 3001W</td>
<td>Professional Ethics for Medical Laboratory Scientists</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLS 4141</td>
<td>Immunology and Serology</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLS 4151</td>
<td>Molecular Diagnostics</td>
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<td>MLS 4158</td>
<td>Laboratory Management and Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLS 4170</td>
<td>Introduction to Molecular Biology</td>
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<td>MLS 4171</td>
<td>Human Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLS 4172</td>
<td>Molecular Diagnostics Capstone</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLS 4217</td>
<td>Molecular Techniques</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLS 4242</td>
<td>Applications of Molecular Testing</td>
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Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences with a Major in Molecular Diagnostic Sciences
Additional required courses for the hybrid program option only.

- MLS 4266 Molecular Diagnostics Practicum
- MLS 4251 Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory
- MLS 4252 Applications of Molecular Testing Laboratory

Electives—hybrid and online program options

Students pursuing the hybrid option must take 15 credits in HSCI, MLS or CERT elective courses.

Students pursuing the fully online option must take 18 credits in HSCI, MLS or CERT elective courses.

Optional concentrations

All students may choose to complete one of the following concentrations. Credits taken in the concentration count toward the elective requirement.

Microbiology concentration

- MLS 2005 Plagues, Pandemics, and Epidemics
- MLS 2007 Microbes and Society (Online option only)
- MLS 4116 Clinical Bacteriology I
- MLS 4117 Clinical Bacteriology II
- MLS 4119 Parasitology, Mycology, and Virology
- MLS 4164 Clinical Microbiology Practicum
- MLS 4216 Clinical Bacteriology Laboratory (hybrid option only)
- MLS 4219 Parasitology, Mycology, and Virology Laboratory (hybrid option only)

Assisted reproductive technology concentration:

- CERT 3004 Endocrinology for Health Sciences
- CERT 4010 Clinical Human Embryology
- CERT 4012 Clinical Human Andrology
- CERT 4014 Human Reproductive Cryobiology
- MLS 3001 Professional Ethics for Medical Laboratory Scientists

COMBINED PROGRAM

Combined program

- Dual Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences with a major in molecular diagnostic sciences and Master of Science in Health Sciences in the field of clinical microbiology (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/medicine-health-sciences/undergraduate-programs/bshs-molecular-diagnostic-sciences-mshs-clinical-microbiology/)