



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

College of Professional Studies
School of Health Sciences and Wellness

2001 Fourth Ave. Stevens Point WI 54481-3897

715-346-3766

www.uwsp.edu/health

health@uwsp.edu

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Clinical Laboratory Science
Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) to Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS)
Prior Learning Assessment

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point recognizes that significant learning can take place in many forms outside of the traditional classroom, i.e., “nontraditional learning.” Such learning may have resulted from participation in certain government, military, employment, or other non-credit bearing activities.

CLS: MLT to MLS Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Eligibility Requirements

Students are eligible for PLA if the following requirements are met:

- Be a fully matriculated, active student (completed the UWSP application and orientation meeting, possess a student ID and are not on program hold or disenrolled).
- Have received a completed Transfer Credit Evaluation through the UWSP registrar.
- Earned a grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 for courses taken to date and are not on academic probation.
- Not yet applied for graduation
- Currently working as a Board-Certified Medical Laboratory Technician (e.g., MLT (ASCP)) or currently credentialed and have held MLT work positions within the past 5 years.
- Individuals must have 2 years of MLT clinical laboratory experience to qualify for PLA credit award.

CLS: MLT to MLS PLA Credit Award

To be awarded credit for prior learning, you must be able to demonstrate that you have met the learning objectives required in a university academic course. For the CLS: MLT to MLS major, PLA credit is typically awarded as Clinical Practicum I (CLS 482) credit. The student will be required to submit documentation as well as an extended resume describing MLT work experience. The required documentation will include:

1. Verification of MLT Board Certification (Agency/Date)
 - American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) –
 - For applicants prior to January 1, 2004, please submit a copy of your ASCP ID card. If you do not have your ID card you will need to verify your credentials through ASCP via the following link: [ASCP Verification of Credentials](#)
 - After receiving the results, you will be able to print a copy. The copy of verification can be submitted to UWSP through the following email address: health@uwsp.edu.
 - For applicants after January 1, 2004, please submit either a copy of your ASCP ID card **or** a copy of your most recent CE certificate. The copy of verification/certificate will be submitted to UWSP through the following email address: health@uwsp.edu.



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- Verification through American Medical Technologists (AMT)
 - AMT has partnered with Credly to provide digital badges to individuals that hold their certification. Applicants will be asked to share that digital badge information with UWSP. UWSP uses that information on AMT's Credly directory to verify your current certification status. For more information, please visit the AMT website via the following link: [American Medical Technologists \(AMT\) > Verify \(americanmedtech.org\)](https://www.americanmedtech.org)
2. Completion of the Attestation Task List form by the Immediate Supervisor or Laboratory Management.

Evaluations for PLA credit of program requirements will be conducted by the CLS Program Director or designee.

PLA Credit Restrictions

Students will be awarded no more than a total of 15 credits for prior learning experiences through the PLA process.

Credits based upon PLAs by UWSP generally do not transfer to other schools outside of UWSP without reevaluation by their faculty in accordance with their academic policies. UWSP does not accept PLA credit evaluated and approved by other universities. Credit based upon PLAs made by other institutions do not transfer to UWSP without reevaluation by our faculty in accordance with UWSP academic policies.

Credit petitioned via PLA must be for a specific university course within your academic program. The university awards credits for college-level learning that can be assessed and documented. Credit is awarded for learning, not experience. Your prior learning must be:

- Related to your current educational goals and objectives.
- College-level and be relevant to a specific course for which the university grants academic credit.
- Transferable to situations other than that in which it was gained.
- Accompanied by the application of appropriate theories.

Credit for prior learning shall be applied to degree or program requirements in the same manner as credits earned through the completion of the equivalent courses at UWSP. Credit will be applied for UWSP course equivalents when students demonstrate mastery of course objectives.

Credits for demonstrated knowledge earned through any prior learning method do not fulfill UWSP residency requirements.

Credit awarded by prior learning assessment at UWSP shall receive a neutral grade such as "P" for pass or "CR" for credit. Conventional letter grades will not be used. The transcript will not indicate an unsuccessful attempt to earn credit for prior learning.



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Assessing/Evaluating PLA Documentation

The subject matter expert(s) within the academic program will conduct the initial evaluation of the documentation and be approved by the Assistant Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Wellness. For CLS: MLT to MLS, the Program Director or designee will utilize the criteria delineated under the "Attestation Task List" form. The student must pay a UWSP Prior Learning Assessment fee prior to the awarding of PLA credits. The fee associated with PLA credits is \$50 total for 1-12 credits and \$100 total for 13-15 credits. The PLA fee may change, please contact the UWSP Coordinator of Prior learning Assessment, Ms. Sally Cayan, scayan@uwsp.edu, 715-346-2764, for current PLA fee structure.

The Attestation Task List is comprised of the seven disciplines within the clinical laboratory including a section on safety. The immediate supervisor or laboratory management (someone in management role who can verify technical experience) will identify whether the student is proficient or not proficient based on sufficient work experience utilizing evaluation methods identified on the form. The break down, per discipline, for the number of possible PLA credits awarded for Clinical Practicum I (CLS 482) is as follows:

Hematology/Hemostasis	3 credits
Microbiology	3 credits
Blood Bank	2 credits
Chemistry	2 credits
Serology	1 credit
Urinalysis and other Body Fluids	1 credit

Students who are deemed proficient on their Attestation Task List will meet the following course learning outcomes assigned to the clinical practicum.

- Work as a member of the laboratory team.
- Demonstrate entry level competencies in each of the major subdisciplines.
- Demonstrate appropriate communication skills in a health care setting.
- Initiate critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

After completion and submission of the Attestation Task List, the CLS Program Director or designee will determine the amount of PLA awarded based on the following rubric.

When the discipline has a three-credit (3 credit) designation, the following credit may be awarded:

- If twenty five percent (25%) of the experiences are marked as proficient, the student will earn 1 credit of PLA with the remaining credits to be completed during the semester of their clinical practicum.
- If fifty percent (50%) of the experiences are marked as proficient, the student will earn two (2) credits of PLA with the remaining credit to be completed during the semester of their clinical practicum.
- If the student has been identified as being proficient in one hundred percent (100%) of the experiences listed, they will earn three (3) credits of PLA and have completed that portion of the clinical practicum.



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When the discipline has a two-credit (2 credit) course designation the following PLA credits may be awarded:

- If fifty percent (50%) of the experiences are marked as proficient, the student will earn one (1) credit of PLA with the remaining credit to be completed during the semester of their clinical practicum.
- If the student has been identified as being proficient in one hundred percent (100%) of the experiences listed, they will earn 2 credits of PLA and have completed that portion of the clinical practicum.

When the discipline has a one- credit (1 credit) course designation, the following credit may be awarded:

- Must complete one hundred percent (100%) of the experiences to earn any PLA. If they do not earn the PLA, then that discipline will need to be completed during the semester of their clinical practicum.

Submission of Completed Forms

Please submit completed form to Dawn Barten, UWSP CLS Program Director at dbarten@uwsp.edu.