MLS Professional Licensure and Certification Disclosure and Resources

Certification is a voluntary process; however, most employers prefer to hire certified practitioners. After graduation, graduates of the Thomas University BS in Medical Laboratory Science are eligible to sit for exams to certification as a Medical Laboratory Scientist. Certification is not licensure, however, there are currently 10 states and 1 territory with laboratory personnel licensure requirements (California, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia and Puerto Rico).

The components of the law vary state-to-state, but usually includes an annual licensing fee (some are bi-annual), national certification, a provision for continuing education, a minimum education, and professional competency requirements.

To determine if completion of the TU BS in Medical Laboratory Science meets your state requirements, refer to the document below. If a Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) plans to locate in a state with licensure, that state should be contacted for specific information relative to that state's laboratory practice act. This contact should be made as early as possible after the location decision has been made.

After enrolling at TU, if a Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) plans to relocate, contact your TU Student Success Advisor and inform them of your intentions. Check with other states regarding reciprocity; most give reciprocity for another state license as stringent or more stringent than that state.

Below is a list of the states and territory with laboratory personnel licensure and contact information. You can also refer to the Personnel Licensure page through The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science for the most current information.

As of October 2026:

State/Territory	Department	Phone Number	Does TU B.S. in MLS Meet Educational Requirement?
California	California Department of Health Services	510-620-3834	No- TU does NOT meet CA Licensure requirements.
Florida	Department of Health Division of Medical Quality Assurance Board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel	850-488-0595	Yes
Hawaii	Hawaii Department of Health State Laboratory Division	808-453-6662	Yes
Louisiana	Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners	504-524-6763 ext 261	Yes
Montana	Montana Department of Commerce Board of Clinical Laboratory Science Practitioners	406-841-2367	Yes
Nevada	Nevada Bureau of Licensure and Certification	775-684-1030	Yes
New York	New York State Education Department Office of the Professions, Clinical Laboratory Technology Board Office	518-474-3817	Yes
North Dakota	North Dakota Board of Clinical Laboratory Practice	701-530-0199	Yes
Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico Department of Health	787-765-2929	TU has not determined whether completion of the BS MLS program meets educational requirements to apply for a medical laboratory scientist license in Puerto Rico.
Tennessee	Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board Personnel	615-532-3202	Yes
West Virginia	West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services	304-205-8914	Yes