

MLPAO Certification for Medical Laboratory Assistants/Technicians

Position Statement

It is the position of the Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario (MLPAO) that the minimum standard entry-level qualification for Medical Laboratory Assistants/Technicians to practice in Ontario is to have successfully achieved the MLPAO Certification.

History

- MLA/Ts are an important part of the health care team and in 1988 the MLPAO recognized the need for the establishment of provincial standards for entry to practice for MLA/Ts in Ontario.
- MLPAO was the first to introduce certification for MLA/Ts in Ontario and have continued to do so for over 30 years.

Information

- MLA/Ts serve in urban and rural settings in the public and private sectors. Hospitals, physicians' offices, diagnostic labs, clinics, specimen collection sites and blood centres all require the services of MLA/Ts. They take samples and perform many pre-analytical functions. Data entry of patient information into a computer system is also a common activity. In a large laboratory, some may work in a specialized discipline.
- The MLPAO is responsible for the provincial MLA/T competencies guidelines which must be met for certification exam. It is further recognized that an MLA/T is required by legislation in Ontario to work under the supervision of a Medical Laboratory Technologist.
- The MLPAO is also responsible for and provides provincial entry-level MLA/T certification.

The MLPAO MLA/T certification exam provides the public with assurance of competent, knowledgeable and skilled health care providers, employers with assurance of competent, knowledgeable, skilled MLA/Ts who meet provincial standards and newly certified MLA/Ts with increased employment opportunities and portability.