



Welcome to the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program at FSC!!

If you love working in a laboratory setting and want to have a direct impact on patient care, the MLS major is a great fit for you! Medical Laboratory Scientists work behind-the-scenes, processing laboratory tests that doctors count on to correctly diagnose, monitor and treat patients. The Medical Laboratory Scientist is responsible for interpreting and communicating critical patient results to the physician.

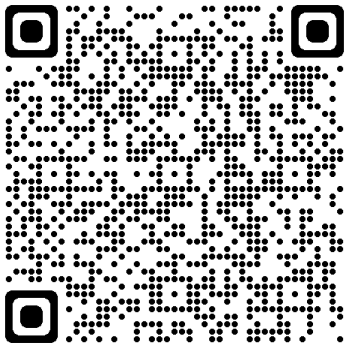
Your academic journey

As an MLS major, you will take prerequisite coursework for two years on the campus of FSC to provide you with the important foundational knowledge you will need to succeed. These courses include introductory biology, anatomy and physiology, and chemistry.

In your third year, you will take upper-level courses at FSC, including parasitology, microbiology, immunology and biochemistry. And you will take three courses at Lakeland Regional Hospital: Introduction to Clinical Lab Sciences and Phlebotomy; Hematology; and Clinical Hemostasis, Urinalysis and Body Fluids. At LRH, you will meet and work with MLS professionals, have important experiences in clinical laboratory settings, and begin working directly towards your certification.

For your final year, you will be full time at LRH for both semesters, where you will spend time in each clinical lab for extensive training. And right after graduation, you will be able to sit for the national certification exam administered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification to become a fully accredited MLS professional!

For more information, visit the FSC website: [Medical Laboratory Sciences - Florida Southern College in Lakeland, FL \(flsouthern.edu\)](https://www.flsouthern.edu/medical-laboratory-sciences)



Or contact:

Dr. N. Morvillo, Chair of the Biology Department:
nmorvillo@flsouthern.edu

Dr. M. Rodriguez, Program Director:
Maridaliz.RodriguezRosado@myLRH.org

Meet Morgan Thornton

Class of 2021

Morgan Thornton graduated from FSC in the spring of 2021 with a double major in MLS and Biology, and a Psychology minor. Originally from Jacksonville, Florida, Morgan came to FSC as a pre-med student, but soon realized it was not the right route for her.

“I first heard of the MLS program in the pre-health prep class,” Morgan said. “I chose MLS because I loved the science part of healthcare. I love helping patients behind the scenes. When I realized I could help patients and practice science I knew it was my field.”

After taking some of her MLS coursework, Morgan was hired the summer after her junior year to work in the labs at LRH. During this time, she gained valuable experience.

After graduating, Morgan obtained her certification and found a job back in her hometown. She currently is employed at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville as a Medical Technologist in the microbiology lab.

When asked what she liked most about the program, Morgan said “I enjoyed the small classes and how caring everyone was. Your professors really care about you succeeding and being happy with the field. It is stressful but so rewarding in the end.”

Morgan also reflected on how the program prepared her for success.

“My internship with Lakeland Regional definitely prepared me for how fast paced the lab really is,” she said. “The professors are sure to teach critical thinking and problem solving, which has helped immensely.”

Morgan also has some advice for prospective students considering this major. “Take a tour of the labs at Lakeland Regional if this major seems interesting,” she said. “I fell in love with the labs when I toured. This area of medicine isn't talked about a whole lot, so it can be hard to imagine what is actually happening in a medical laboratory. Seeing it for yourself gives a great insight into what you would be doing, and can give you an idea of what this profession would mean for you.”

