

Dixie State University
Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science
Differential Tuition

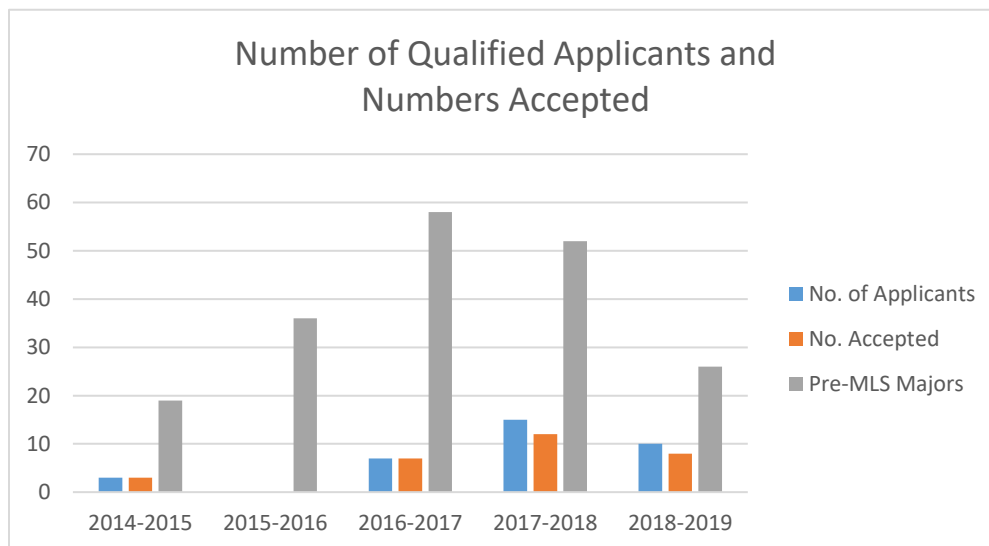
Section I: Request

The Dixie State University (DSU) Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program operating budget is funded by course and program fees. These fees must cover lab course consumable supplies and reagents, computer hardware and software, accreditation and professional fees, travel and the apportioned Department costs: the secretary's salary and office supplies. There is no program capital equipment budget despite an extensive capital equipment inventory not limited to various automated and semi-automated instruments, seventeen dual-head clinical-grade microscopes, a blood bank workstation, a Millipore water purification system, a chemical fume hood and a level - 2 biological safety cabinet. This inventory must be maintained, upgraded and periodically repaired or replaced at considerable expense. The current operational budget is inadequate to cover all MLS program expenses, especially capital equipment. It is therefore proposed that course and program fees be discontinued and a program differential tuition be implemented to cover all program operational and capital equipment expenses. The program proposes a differential of \$143.00 per credit hour be added to the standard DSU tuition.

Section II: Student and Market Demand for the Program

The MLS program, initially accredited in 2015, has an enrollment capacity of 12 students per year. The program is nationally accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). There are three other long-time established baccalaureate NAACLS-accredited MLS programs in Utah: BYU, University of Utah, and Weber State. DSU has the only MLS program serving residents of the southern part of the state and the state of Nevada, a state with no MLS program. Since re-structuring in 2016, the program has experienced an increase (Table 1) in the number of program applicants usually with more applicants than available positions in the cohort. Program post-graduate surveys indicate that within 3-months of graduation all program graduates are employed fulltime as Medical Laboratory Scientists within and outside the state of Utah.

TABLE 1



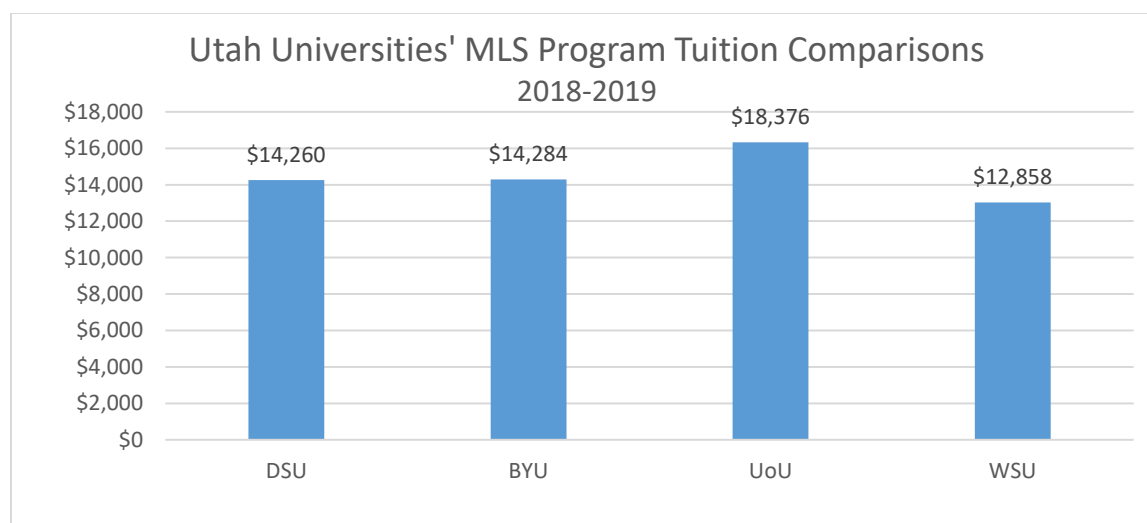
Section III: Impact of Differential Tuition Rates on Student Access and Retention:

Currently, MLS students pay an additional \$5,445.00 or \$87.82 per credit for course and program fees. The program is requesting a differential tuition of \$143.00 per credit, an increase of \$55.18. Differential tuition must be planned carefully in order for the DSU Medical Laboratory Science program to remain competitive with other institutions. It must be clearly explained in order for students to make informed decisions regarding which school to attend. Students will need to be advised on how to compare differential tuition to other institutions' base tuition and course or program fees. If this is not understood by students, a decrease in applications and enrollment may result.

Section IV: Tuition Rates of Comparable Programs at Other Institutions:

Currently, the MLS program cost is the second lowest among the other Utah institutions with accredited MLS programs: Weber State University (WSU), Brigham Young University (BYU), and University of Utah (UoU). With the implementation of differential tuition DSU's tuition will be the third lowest among the Utah universities.

TABLE 2



Section V: Potential Earnings Capacity of Program Graduates:

Graduate survey data collected between 2016 and 2018 indicates the average DSU MLS graduate salary is \$51,000 - \$55,000 a year within the state of Utah. Starting salaries in neighboring regional states including Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Wyoming is higher, only Idaho has a lower starting salary.

Section VI: Societal Importance of the Program:

Medical Laboratory Scientists (MLS) are qualified academically through a rigorous applied science education to provide service and research in all major areas of practice in the contemporary medical science laboratories and related areas in rapidly changing and dynamic healthcare delivery systems. Nevertheless, the shortage of qualified MLS, though not a new story, remains a persistent concern. As the ballooning aging population and health insurance coverage expansion increase the demand for laboratory services, the need for qualified MLS is

projected to increase much faster than average for all other occupations according to US Department of Labor's 2018 Occupational Outlook Handbook. Furthermore, current opinions are that the improving economy augments the acute shortage as the large number of "baby boomer" laboratorians, who delayed retirement during the economic recession of 2007-2009. In practical terms, this means that labs across the country need to fill thousands of MLS jobs annually over the next decade, but US MLS education programs are not likely to graduate the numbers of MLS needed (sourced from AACC.org 2015 article "Laboratory Workforce Shortage demands New Solutions" accessible URL <https://www.aacc.org/publications/cln/articles/2015/november/the-laboratory-workforce-shortage-demands-new-solutions>). In Utah there are 4 BS MLS accredited programs which do not graduate sufficient numbers of MLS to fill the 250 annual openings projected for the years 2017-2019 according to the Utah's short term occupational projections (sourced <http://www.projectionscentral.com/Projections/ShortTerm>).