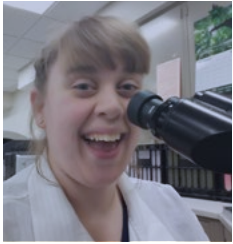


MY CREDENTIAL STORY



Kathleen Corley, MLT(ASCP)^{CM}

I lost my mom to cancer in November 2015, a year before I started the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program at Stark State College, North Canton, Ohio. (My dad passed away years ago when I was young.) My life changed dramatically, and I went from living comfortably with my mom and younger sister to effectively being homeless.

At the time, I was in school full time and only able to work about 30 hours a week at a local grocery store. I couldn't afford to keep our house. Fortunately, I was blessed with a supportive extended family who opened their homes to my sister and me. After I began the program the next fall, I quickly learned to balance school work with a job and navigate learning to live on my own. Although it was difficult at times, I graduated relatively on time, with distinction.

I passed my ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) exam in September 2018. Two weeks later, I started my job at Aultman Hospital, in Canton, Ohio, as a full-time hematologist. I went from struggling and barely scraping by to having a savings account and a comfortable income. I even adopted a kitten!

I absolutely love my job, which provides me with fulfillment. I wouldn't have been able to find a career without the program and passing the BOC exam. My life has done a complete 180 turn-around. It's still a struggle to carry on without my mom. However, this was a major stepping stone to getting my life back on track. I'm finally able to focus on myself and start healing.