



Both the U.S. and International Specialist in Microbiology (SM) eligibility requirements were revised to establish separate routes for educators, rather than including them in the already established routes. For the U.S. SM, Routes 5 and 6 were added as shown below. For International SBB, Routes 5 and 6 were added as shown below.

Specialist in Microbiology, SM(ASCP)

To be eligible for this examination category, an applicant must satisfy the requirements of at least one of the following routes:

ROUTE 1: MT/MLS(ASCP) certification or M(ASCP) certification, AND a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college/university, AND three years of full time acceptable experience in the clinical laboratory in microbiology in the U.S., Canada or an accredited laboratory* within the last ten years. These three years of experience must be acquired post baccalaureate degree.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Effective January 1, 2017 the SM Eligibility Route 1 will be revised as follows: MT/MLS(ASCP) certification or M(ASCP) certification, AND a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college/university, AND three years of full time acceptable experience in the clinical laboratory in microbiology in the U.S., Canada or an accredited laboratory* **within the last six years**. These three years of experience must be acquired post baccalaureate degree.

ROUTE 2: Master's degree (or equivalent) in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, allied health, clinical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from a regionally accredited college/university, AND three years of full time acceptable experience in the clinical laboratory in microbiology in the U.S., Canada or an accredited laboratory* within the last ten years. These three years of experience must be acquired post baccalaureate degree.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Effective January 1, 2017 the SM Eligibility Route 2 will be revised as follows: Master's degree (or equivalent) in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, allied health, clinical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from a regionally accredited college/university, AND three years of full time acceptable experience in the clinical laboratory in microbiology in the U.S., Canada or an accredited laboratory* **within the last six years**. These three years of experience must be acquired post baccalaureate degree.

ROUTE 3: Doctorate in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, allied health, clinical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from a regionally accredited college/university, AND two years of post-doctoral fellowship** in clinical microbiology in the U.S. or Canada or two years of full time acceptable experience in the clinical laboratory in microbiology in the U.S., Canada or an accredited laboratory* within the last ten years. These two years of experience must be acquired post baccalaureate degree.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Effective January 1, 2017 the SM Eligibility Route 3 will be revised as follows: Doctorate in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, allied health, clinical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from a regionally accredited college/university, AND two years of post-doctoral fellowship** in clinical microbiology in the U.S. or Canada or two years of full time acceptable experience in the clinical laboratory in microbiology in the U.S., Canada or an accredited laboratory* within the last five years. These two years of experience must be acquired post baccalaureate degree.

ROUTE 4: MT/MLS(ASCP) certification or M(ASCP) certification, AND a doctorate in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, allied health, clinical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from a regionally accredited college/university, AND one year of full-time acceptable laboratory experience in microbiology (clinical or research) in the U.S. or Canada or an accredited laboratory* within the last ten years.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Effective January 1, 2017 the SM Eligibility Route 4 will be revised as follows: MT/MLS(ASCP) certification or M(ASCP) certification, AND a doctorate in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, allied health, clinical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from a regionally accredited college/university, AND one year of full-time acceptable laboratory experience in microbiology (clinical or research) in the U.S. or Canada or an accredited laboratory* within the last five years.

ROUTE 5: MT/MLS(ASCP) certification or M(ASCP) certification, AND a baccalaureate or master's degree from a regionally accredited college/university, AND three years of full time acceptable experience as an academic educator in clinical microbiology at a regionally accredited college/university in the U.S., Canada or an accredited laboratory* within the last ten years. These three years of experience must be acquired post baccalaureate degree.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Effective January 1, 2017 the SM Eligibility Route 5 will be revised as follows: MT/MLS(ASCP) certification or M(ASCP) certification, AND a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college/university, AND three years of full time acceptable experience as an academic educator in clinical microbiology at a regionally accredited college/university in the U.S., Canada or an accredited laboratory* within the last six years. These three years of experience must be acquired post baccalaureate degree.

ROUTE 6: MT/MLS(ASCP) certification or M(ASCP) certification, AND a doctorate in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, allied health, clinical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from a regionally accredited college/university, AND one year of full time acceptable experience as an academic educator in clinical microbiology at a regionally accredited college/university in the U.S. or Canada or an accredited laboratory* within the last ten years.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Effective January 1, 2017 the SM Eligibility Route 6 will be revised as follows: MT/MLS(ASCP) certification or M(ASCP) certification, AND a doctorate in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, allied health, clinical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from a regionally accredited college/university, AND one year of fulltime acceptable experience as an academic educator in clinical microbiology at a regionally accredited college/university in the U.S. or Canada or an accredited laboratory* within the last five years.

**CMS CLIA certificate of registration, compliance, accreditation; OR
JCI accreditation; OR
Accreditation under ISO 15189.*

***A copy of the certificate of completion of the post-doctoral fellowship is required.*

International Specialist in Microbiology, SM(ASCPⁱ)

To be eligible for this examination category, an applicant must satisfy the requirements of at least one of the following routes:

ROUTE 1: MT/MLS(ASCPⁱ) certification or M(ASCPⁱ) certification, AND a baccalaureate degree from an accredited/approved* educational institution, AND three years of acceptable clinical laboratory experience in microbiology in an accredited/approved** laboratory facility. These three years of experience must be acquired post baccalaureate degree.

ROUTE 2: Master's degree in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, clinical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from an accredited/approved* educational institution, AND three years of acceptable clinical laboratory experience in microbiology in an accredited/approved** laboratory facility. These three years of experience must be acquired post baccalaureate degree.

ROUTE 3: Doctorate in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, clinical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from an accredited/approved* educational institution, AND two years of acceptable laboratory experience in microbiology (e.g., clinical, research) in an accredited/approved** laboratory facility.

ROUTE 4: MT/MLS(ASCPⁱ) certification or M(ASCPⁱ) certification, AND a doctorate in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, medical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from an accredited/approved* educational institution, AND one year of acceptable laboratory experience in microbiology research in an accredited/approved** laboratory facility.

ROUTE 5: MT/MLS(ASCPⁱ) certification or M(ASCPⁱ) certification, AND a baccalaureate or master's degree from an accredited/approved* educational institution, AND three years of acceptable experience as an academic educator in clinical microbiology in an accredited/approved* educational institution. These three years of experience must be acquired post baccalaureate degree.

ROUTE 6: MT/MLS(ASCPⁱ) certification or M(ASCPⁱ) certification, AND a doctorate in chemistry, biology, immunology, microbiology, clinical laboratory sciences, or an appropriately related field, from an accredited/approved* educational institution, AND one year of acceptable experience as an academic educator in clinical microbiology in an accredited/approved* educational institution.

**Accredited/approved by a governing regulatory association or Ministry. Countries without a prevalent system of accreditation/approval must have programs/educational institutions approved by an International Advisory Board appointed by the ASCP Board of Certification, or eligibility will be determined by transcript evaluation. The baccalaureate degree must be equivalent to a U.S. baccalaureate degree.*

***Laboratory accredited by JCI, CAP, under ISO 15189 or authorized by a governing regulatory association or Ministry. Countries without a prevalent system of accreditation must have laboratories approved by an International Advisory Board appointed by the ASCP Board of Certification.*

For the International Technologist in Microbiology (M), an addition was made to Routes 2 and 3 to allow applicants with a minimum of 30 semester hours in biology and chemistry to qualify as shown below.

International Technologist in Microbiology, M(ASCPⁱ)

To be eligible for this examination category, an applicant must satisfy the requirements of at least one of the following routes:

ROUTE 1: MT/MLS(ASCPⁱ) certification, AND a baccalaureate degree from an accredited/approved* educational institution.

ROUTE 2: Baccalaureate degree from an accredited/approved* educational institution in biological science or chemistry, or a baccalaureate degree from an accredited/approved* educational institution with a minimum of 30 semester hours in biology and/or chemistry, AND one year acceptable clinical laboratory experience in microbiology in an accredited/approved** laboratory facility.

ROUTE 3: Baccalaureate degree from an accredited/approved* educational institution in biological science or chemistry, or a baccalaureate degree from an accredited/approved* educational institution with a minimum of 30 semester hours in biology and/or chemistry, AND successful completion of a microbiology clinical training program* which includes an internship.

ROUTE 4: Graduate level degree (Master's, Doctorate) in microbiology, or an appropriately related field, from an accredited/approved* educational institution, AND six months acceptable clinical laboratory experience in Microbiology in an accredited/approved** laboratory facility.

ROUTE 5: Baccalaureate degree in medical laboratory science*** from an accredited/approved* educational institution AND successful completion of a Medical Laboratory training program*.

**Accredited/approved by a governing regulatory association or Ministry. Countries without a prevalent system of accreditation/approval must have programs/educational institutions approved by an International Advisory Board appointed by the ASCP Board of Certification, or eligibility will be determined by transcript evaluation. The baccalaureate degree must be equivalent to a U.S. baccalaureate degree.*

***Laboratory accredited by JCI, CAP, under ISO 15189 or authorized by a governing regulatory association or Ministry. Countries without a prevalent system of accreditation must have laboratories approved by an International Advisory Board appointed by the ASCP Board of Certification.*

****Degrees/Diplomas in Medical Laboratory Science include Medical Laboratory Science, Medical Technology, Clinical Laboratory Science, and Biomedical Laboratory Science.*