

Clinical Laboratory Sciences Specialist in Blood Banking

utmb Health

School of Health Professions

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON



Specialists in Blood Bank Technology (SBB) perform and/or supervise both routine and specialized tests in blood centers, hospital-based transfusion services and reference labs, using methodology that conforms to the Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services of the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies and regulations of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). SBBs also work in research, education and industry.

The UTMB SBB program was one of the first SBB schools in existence, under the auspices of the UTMB Blood Bank, with the first graduates in 1955. The program was housed in the Blood Bank for many years and moved to the School of Health Professions in 2004. In 1999, the first SBB distance education program was initiated by UTMB. The program was converted to a totally on-line program in 2003. There have been over 320 graduates of the on-line program as of April 2022.

The SBB Program can be combined with the Masters in Transfusion Medicine (MSTM) degree. The MSTM program requires an additional 23-24 credits (4 semesters).

The cost of the SBB program depends on the number of credit hours taken each semester and in-state vs out-of-state tuition.

Admission Requirements

- A **baccalaureate degree** from a regionally accredited college or university in medical laboratory science, biology, or a related science, including standard college courses in biological sciences, general chemistry, microbiology, and mathematics.
 - Biology and chemistry courses must be for science majors and include laboratories.
 - Mathematics course must be college algebra or higher.
 - Students are strongly encouraged to take courses in genetics, immunology and statistics.
- Foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved transcript evaluation service (Foreign Credentials Service of America, Spantran Services, World Education Services, Inc.)
- Applicants must have a minimum of **two years full-time** post-baccalaureate work experience (or equivalent) relevant to an immunohematology area within an institution accredited by a recognized accrediting agency.
 - Applicants must be currently employed in some aspect of Transfusion Medicine.
- A minimum grade point average of **3.0 (on a scale of 4.0)** for the SBB Certificate or the MSTM program.
- An identified **mentor (SBB or MD)** who is willing to assist with answering questions, locating facilities for required clinical experience and monitoring student progress through the SBB training.
- Ability to be on-campus in Galveston, TX for orientation week in April (**SBB certificate program**) and for a four-day weekend laboratory session (Thursday-Sunday) for Molecular Diagnostics course (**MSTM program only**).
- International applicants will be considered.
- Applicants from non-English speaking countries must submit a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score. Alternatively, the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) may be submitted. Minimum required scores:
 - Paper-based TOEFL: 550
 - Computer-based TOEFL: 213
 - Internet-based TOEFL: 79
 - IELTS: 6.5



Applicant Information

Deadline for AHCAS applications for the 2025 SBB Class is March 1, 2025. Late applications are not accepted.

Initial application must be completed using the AHCAS system. We recommend that you contact the SBB Program Director (Diana Riddle – dlriddle@utmb.edu) for program information and requirements before beginning the application process. See <https://www.utmb.edu/shp/clls/sbb/admissions> for additional information.

- Submit official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate college work and MT/MLS training (if applicable) through AHCAS. If any college work was completed outside the United States, official evaluations of foreign college credit from one of the approved evaluation services should also be provided.
- Include 3 professional references, who must complete the online reference form that will be provided. References should be completed by individuals who can evaluate your work and professional ethics, study habits, and classroom/laboratory outcomes. At least one reference must be from a work supervisor, manager, or director.
- Provide additional application materials as listed on our website (<https://www.utmb.edu/shp/clls/sbb/admissions>).
- All complete applications verified through AHCAS will be reviewed and evaluated. A numerical system based on grades from undergraduate courses, personal narrative, type and length of experience, references, and other miscellaneous items will determine the student's qualification for this program. If the applicant meets the required number of points, he/she will be notified and provided additional information about the UTMB enrollment process.
- Applicants will be notified of eligibility and receive the supplemental UTMB application. Complete and submit this application as soon as possible.

Mission and Vision

UTMB's mission is to improve the health of the people of Texas and worldwide.

Vision: We work together to work wonders as we define the future of health care and strive to be the best in all our endeavors.

The mission of the School of Health Professions is to provide and promote quality education, research, and service in an environment that fosters collaboration and mutual respect. The School of Health Professions promotes the University's five core values: education, innovation, service, community, and diversity.

For additional information about the UTMB SPECIALIST IN BLOOD BANK TECHNOLOGY program, please visit our website at: <https://www.utmb.edu/shp/clls/sbb/admissions>

Accreditation

The UTMB SBB Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

For more information visit:

<https://www.caahep.org/>

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

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