



University of California
San Francisco

Department of Laboratory Medicine Clinical Laboratory Scientist Training program

What is a clinical laboratory scientist?

Clinical laboratory scientists (CLS) are individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree and passed a State of California licensing exam that qualifies them to work in all sections of the clinical laboratory. CLS work with state-of-the-art equipment to analyze a variety of laboratory testing on human body samples and reporting results to physicians. It is estimated that 70 to 80 percent of all decisions about a patient's diagnosis and treatment, are influenced by laboratory test results.

Clinical laboratory scientists collaborate very closely with physicians in diagnosing and monitoring disease processes, as well as monitoring the effectiveness of therapy. Areas of clinical laboratory training include microbiology, chemistry, hematology, urinalysis/body fluids, immunology, transfusion medicine, toxicology and molecular diagnostics.

What are the prerequisites for entry into the training program?

Applicants must demonstrate an overall and science GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0-point scale. Also must attain a minimum of 3.0 in each of the required courses, which must be completed within 3 years of application. Required and recommended courses for admittance to the Clinical Laboratory Science Program at UCSF are:

Biological sciences (18 semester units or equivalent quarter units) including:

Required:

- Medical (clinical/pathogenic) Microbiology (with lab preferred)
- Immunology
- Hematology (with lab preferred)

Strongly recommended:

- Molecular biology
- Parasitology
- Virology
- Genetics
- Biostatistics

Chemistry (16 semester units or equivalent quarter units) including:

Required:

- Biochemistry
- Analytical/quantitative analysis or clinical chemistry
- **Note: if you have taken Chemistry 2 ABC as a series at UC Davis, you will receive credit for meeting the academic requirement for Analytical/quantitative Chemistry by CDPH/LFS.**

Physics (3 semester units or equivalent quarter units)

Required:

Physics must include instructions in the principles of light and electricity (this course is usually second semester college physics or a part of a series of three quarter courses of physics).

How many students are accepted each session?

We started with four (4) trainees in March of 2018 and will take **two** trainees in September of 2018 and probably **two** or more trainees in March of 2019.

When is the admissions application deadline?

Last Friday of August for March session; June 1st for the September session

Is lab tour available prior to the interview?

A tour of our labs will be provided to interested applicants in the months of June and September. The program director will contact applicants for the specific date and time.

How do you evaluate applicants?

We utilize a holistic approach to our admissions process, meaning all application materials are considered when making an admissions decision. This includes grades, academic history and rigor of previous academic programs, letters of recommendation, and prior work experience, to name a few.

Who dictates the academic requirements of the CLS training program?

California Department of Public Health/ Laboratory Field Services (CDPH/LFS)

What is the minimum acceptable GPA for entrance into the CLS training program?

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the core required courses and a GPA of 3.0 in all college courses.

Can I still apply if I am still taking one of the required courses after the application deadline?

Yes, provided you complete all academic requirements by the date of the interview. The interviews for March session takes place in October. For September training session interviews takes place in the first week of July.

Do I need to complete the background check?

Yes. It is a requirement of all admitted trainees to complete a background check as part of the admissions process. The form is posted on the website, download and complete it as part of your application.

How long will it take before I get notified of my status?

Once your application is submitted and all of the required materials have been received, it usually takes one month to review and finalize the admissions decision.

What does the UCSF CLS training program entail?

The training program will include reading assignments, didactic lectures, case studies simulating real lab result situations, pictures of cells/organisms and hands-on clinical rotations in hematology, urinalysis/body fluids, clinical chemistry, immunology/serology, clinical microbiology, molecular diagnostics, cytogenetics and transfusion medicine.

Do I have to pay for the required texts?

Yes. You are responsible for the cost of the required texts that are necessary for the training.

What are the qualities of applicants UCSF training program is looking for?

Previous experience of successful trainees of clinical laboratory science candidates showed they possessed the following general characteristics:

- Aptitude for the basic sciences, computers and laboratory instrumentation
- Ability to work quickly and efficiently
- Precise and thorough
- Work well under pressure
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

How is the interview process conducted?

- Applications are first reviewed for their academic eligibility. Eligible applications are then evaluated and scored based on the completion of the required/recommended courses, grades, knowledge of the field, essay and letters of recommendation.
- The highest scoring candidates are selected for interviews. The interview process includes a behavioral panel interview with our supervisory staff.

What is the career outlook for the graduates of the CLS training program?

There is currently a national and State shortage of qualified clinical laboratory scientists. The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that medical/clinical laboratory science positions exhibit faster than average employment growth and forecasts excellent job opportunities.

At UCSF clinical laboratories, ambitious clinical laboratory scientists can advance into more responsible positions such as method development, technical specialists, education, quality assurance and management.

What is the starting salary upon obtaining of the California license?

The starting salary of entry level California licensed CLS is about \$97,600 per year plus other liberal benefits package.

Can trainees work while attending the CLS training program?

Training is an eight hour per day Monday through Friday. Few of the students who have worked have expressed that it was challenging for them to keep up with the training and work. If work is necessary trainees cannot work at UCSF, they must work on weekends with an external organization.

Is there a tuition requirement for the training program?

There is no tuition requirement for this training. We will offer monthly compensation to admitted trainees. The amount of compensation will be determined in the near future.

Is financial aid available?

No, this is a clinical laboratory based training. It is not academic based training program.