



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 is the application fee?

The application fee is \$75, non-refundable, and must be received by the appropriate application deadline. A completed application and the fee must be received before the submission process is started. Please note that reapplication, up to 2 additional submissions, will require a new completed application and fee each time.

Payment is made by mailed check with the following instructions:

- *Checks must be made to UC Regents
- *Write applicant's last name-class applying for (eg. SMITH-092019, SMITH-032020)
- *Send to UCSF-Health Clinical Lab, C/O Terrina Yamamoto, 185 Berry St Suite 290, SF Ca 94107

Please note that the fee is non-refundable for any reason so review the minimum requirements carefully as well as follow-up with all your recommendations.

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 5 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?

The UCSF Clinical Lab started the program in March 2018 and, in general, will take two trainees in September and two trainees in March.

When is the admissions application deadline?

Mar Class: Apply July 1- Last Friday of August the prior year

Sep Class: Apply April 1 - Last Friday of May the same year

Is lab tour available prior to the interview?

A tour of our labs will be provided to applicants, meeting the minimum requirement, in the months of July and October. 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 for the UCSF CLS Training Program.

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 application deadline. The interview for March session takes place in October-November. For September training session interviews takes place in July-August.

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?

Submitted applications and all of the required materials must be received by the application close date. It usually takes one month to review and finalize the lab tour invitations, then about one week after the tour for invited interviews and an additional week for invited admissions.

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?

You are responsible for the cost of the required texts that are necessary for the training. However, some sections have text books to borrow for use during your rotation and some books are available electronically for your use during the training year.

Are there any supplies I need to have for the UCSF training program?

Each student must have a personal lap top as a studying platform. At the start of the program, during lab orientation, your lap top will be set up to securely access the UCSF network.

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
- Ability to work well in a team

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.
- All eligible applicants meeting the minimum requirements will be invited for a lab tour. During this visit, a basic science quiz will be given.
- The highest cumulative 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.