

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Who should apply?

The applicant must demonstrate a strong interest and motivation in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS). The applicant must also understand the role of a clinical laboratory scientist and have met the California State prerequisites. The state requirements include a posted degree which includes the minimum coursework requirements.

Applicants with ties to the Greater Sacramento area or affiliate training sites located in Placerville and Modesto are preferentially selected.

2) What are the course prerequisites/ requirements to apply?

The applicant must have a B.A. or B.S. degree and must be qualified to be issued a CLS training license by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Laboratory Field Services prior to the start of training. The CLS training license requires 16 semester hours of chemistry and 18 semester hours in the biological sciences. Minimum coursework requirements must include Analytical Chemistry or Clinical Chemistry, Immunology, Physics (with light and electricity), Biochemistry, Medical Microbiology (Pathogenic Bacteriology), and Hematology. This required coursework must be completed at least 2-3 months before starting the training program to ensure adequate time for transcripts to be sent and evaluated by the CDPH. The course requirements are set by CDPH, and eligibility and issuance of a training license is solely determined by CDPH.

For UC Davis students only: if you have taken Chemistry 2 ABC you have satisfied the coursework requirement for Analytical Chemistry.

3) What are the CLS Training Program specific requirements?

The program requires a GPA of 3.0 or greater in both the sciences and overall GPA. The program will not accept any applications not meeting this requirement. The program also requires a college math course, algebra or higher.

4) My GPA does not meet your program requirement; however, I can explain my GPA. I also have lab experience and a strong desire to be a CLS. May I still apply and be considered for your CLS Program?

Unfortunately, for many potential applicants, they are in a similar situation. Currently our program is highly competitive and therefore we receive many qualified applications. We will not accept nor consider any application with a GPA less than 3.0 in both the sciences and in overall GPA.

5) I have an advanced degree (Ph.D. or M.D.). Does this benefit my application when applying to the CLS training program?

The CLS training program is a post-baccalaureate 12-month NAACLS accredited certificate program. This opportunity does not require a master's degree, Ph.D., or M.D.. There is no benefit afforded to applicants who have earned additional degrees. The selection committee is concerned with applicant preparedness for this training program (recent undergraduate coursework) and applicant understanding of the duties and role of a CLS professional.

6) I plan on taking a couple of the state required courses to meet the minimum coursework requirements for the state issued training license. May I apply to the training program while this coursework is in progress?

Yes, coursework may be in progress at the time of application. Please mark the appropriate box on the application so the selection committee may more accurately evaluate your ability to begin training. All

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state required coursework must be completed three months prior to training commencement. This will allow time for the state to review your submitted transcripts, to the state, and complete your trainee license application and issue a training license. All applicants invited to train must have been issued a state CLS training license before any training may begin.

7) **Who should write a letter of recommendation for me?**

As our training program is very competitive, the letters of recommendation (LOR) are carefully evaluated by the selection committee to ascertain if an applicant has the knowledge and ability to succeed in our training program. The LOR should be written by an employer or a professor who understands your abilities and strengths. Recommenders who can attest to the applicant's laboratory skills and science abilities are preferred. Preference is placed heavily on recent letters of recommendation. Recommendations submitted detailing an experience more than five years from first time application do not assist the selection committee in the applicant's **current** abilities. The program encourages recent letters of recommendation. Any personal letters of recommendation received are not scored.

8) **I was not selected for an interview or invited to participate in training. How can I strengthen my application?**

Applicants who wish to re-apply for the program after not being accepted into a cycle must email their desire to reapply to the Program Director. These re-applicants must request one NEW letter of recommendation submitted on their behalf AND update any application information (e.g. employment history, transcripts, personal statement) prior to the next application deadline. The applicant may strengthen their application by gaining laboratory experience (if they previously had no lab experience) and also completing any remaining required coursework with outstanding grades.

9) **How can I gain laboratory experience?**

Applicants may gain laboratory experience through working in a college laboratory, research laboratory, or volunteering in a hospital based clinical laboratory.

10) **How do I apply to the program? What is the Program admission rate?**

The on-line application and all required forms may be accessed through the program website. It is expected that 4-8 students will be accepted into the CLS fall training cycle and 3-4 students will be accepted into the CLS spring training program each year. Typically the program receives approximately 100 applications for each admission cycle. The rate of acceptance is approximately 5% of all qualified applicants.

The program currently **preferentially** selects applicants with **ties to the greater Sacramento area or to our clinical training affiliate sites located in Placerville, CA and Modesto CA**- as Southern California applicants are no longer mostly considered for training this may decrease the number of applications and increase the acceptance rate.

11) **What is the application deadline?**

The application deadline for the late summer class is January 1st and the deadline for the spring class is September 1st. No late applications are accepted for any reason.

12) **When does the program begin?**

Program inductions are held in February and August annually. The CLS Training Program is held for 12 consecutive months (no summer break is included).

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13) What is the cost of the program?

The CLS Training Program does not charge a tuition fee for the program. Students have historically been able to receive a small monthly stipend to assist with training materials, supplies, and living costs for their training year.

14) What are my chances of gaining admission to the program?

The acceptance varies depend upon the application cycle. CLS training is highly competitive and the selected applicants have typically surpassed the minimum program requirements. Frequently accepted candidates have laboratory experience and are motivated and dedicated to this training opportunity.

Acceptance rate is greater for those applicants who have ties to the Greater Sacramento area or a clinical affiliate training site located in Placerville, CA and Modesto, CA.