

Clinical Laboratory Sciences

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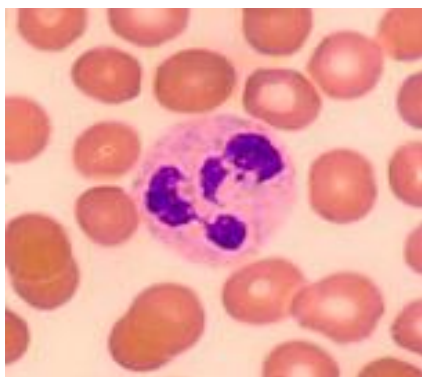
Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Web site: <http://www.wright.edu/biology/programs/cls>

The Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) Program affords the student an opportunity to work as a valued member in the health care field. The Clinical Laboratory Scientist performs testing to assist physicians in patient diagnosis and treatment as well as disease monitoring and prevention. Laboratory testing encompasses such disciplines as clinical chemistry, hematology, immunology, immunohematology, microbiology, and molecular biology.

The Clinical Laboratory Scientist uses sophisticated biomedical instrumentation and technology, computers, and manual methods to provide accurate results used in detecting cancer, heart attacks, diabetes, bacterial identification and antibiotic sensitivity, anemia, drugs of abuse, and even determination of blood and organ compatibility for transfusion or transplant.

The Clinical Laboratory Science profession has more than one career track based on level of education: clinical laboratory technician (Associate Degree) and clinical laboratory scientist (Bachelor of Science Degree). Clinical laboratory technicians are competent in the collection, processing and analysis of biological specimens, performing laboratory procedures, maintaining laboratory instruments, and relating lab findings to common diseases or conditions. Clinical laboratory scientists have a more extensive theoretical knowledge base so these professionals not only perform the testing, but also evaluate/interpret the results, integrate data, problem solve, consult, conduct research, and develop new test methods. Generally the Clinical Laboratory Scientist has better compensation than does a clinical laboratory technician, with greater opportunity for advancement into management with appropriate experience.



Job Outlook/Salaries for Clinical Laboratory Scientists

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the US Department of Labor projects that clinical laboratory scientists will increase in number by 10-20% through the year 2020. Nationwide, **the average salary for experienced clinical laboratory scientists is \$53,000**, while the **average starting salaries in the Dayton area are \$33,000-\$40,000/yr.** Currently there is a shortage of qualified laboratory personnel which is expected to get worse. *For every two laboratorians entering the field, there are seven leaving.* Most of this attrition is due to an aging work force who are entering retirement. This guarantees job security and higher salaries for CLS graduates. With rare exception, all of the students graduating from the Wright State CLS program are employed, many even before graduation.

Would you like an excellent preparation for medical school, veterinary medicine, dental school or graduate studies? Try CLS as a major! The intense coursework and laboratory training is one of the best ways to prepare for post-baccalaureate programs in any area of healthcare or natural science. In addition, since our graduates have almost guaranteed employment, they can work in the field while pursuing graduate school.

If you don't intend to pursue education beyond the baccalaureate level, CLS prepares you for a challenging career as a laboratory professional. You can't go wrong with this major.

Other Career Opportunities

If a hospital, physician's office, or clinical laboratory is not the environment you prefer, CLS professionals find challenging employment in a variety of arenas. From industrial, research, and public health laboratories, to forensic or pharmaceutical laboratories, to technical sales, the CLS professional's analytical, scientific, and technical skills are valuable assets with a diversity of application .

The CLS program is currently affiliated with the following laboratories:

- Atrium Medical Center in Middletown
- Children's Hospital in Cincinnati
- Children's Medical Center in Dayton
- Clinton Memorial Hospital in Wilmington
- Compunet Clinical Labs in Dayton (Miami Valley Hospital , Miami Valley South, Sandridge Reference Lab)
- Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton
- Grandview Medical Center
- Kettering Medical Center in Dayton
- McCullough-Hyde Hospital in Oxford
- Reid Hospital in Richmond, Indiana
- Springfield Regional Hospital
- Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Dayton

About the CLS Program...

This is a twelve month program consisting of didactic coursework and rotations at affiliated laboratories. The program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), 5600 N. River Road, Suite 720, Rosemont, IL 60018. Upon successful completion of the curriculum, students are eligible to take a national certification examination given by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification.

The program begins in May with didactic and student laboratory exercises in the basic clinical laboratory sciences. Students are on campus five days a week, generally taking one CL course at a time. Beginning in September, students spend four days per week at assigned lab rotations. Six weeks are spent in each of the following departments of the hospital clinical laboratory: chemistry, hematology, microbiology, and transfusion services (blood bank). During this time, students return to campus every Friday for advanced lectures and case studies in all the major laboratory sciences.

Admission to the CLS program is competitive and limited. Criteria used to determine admission include the academic record, 3 letters of recommendation, and results of a personal interview. An overall GPA of 2.7 or better is required. Grades of C or above must be earned in all science and math courses completed. Eligible applicants from nonaffiliated universities will be considered. These applicants must meet NAACLS requirements before they can enter the program. Applicants with a foreign baccalaureate degree must have their transcripts formally evaluated and meet the above criteria for admission into the program.

The clinical year includes 40 semester hours of CL coursework spread over three semesters. Students pay the current WSU full-time tuition. There are scholarships available to students who meet eligibility requirements.

Before beginning the program, students must have a physical examination and provide proof of required immunizations. Students must carry medical insurance and professional liability insurance during the clinical year.



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