

UC Davis Health CLS Training Program- Frequently Asked Questions

Who should apply?

- **The preferred applicant-** Applicants with work/career experience in the Greater Sacramento area or affiliate training sites located in Placerville and Modesto are **preferentially selected**.
- 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 minimum coursework requirements.
- UC Davis Health continues to require an **Analytical Chemistry or Quantitative Analysis Course**. The state issued CLS training license will now accept clinical chemistry to meet the analytical requirement. UC Davis Health is not in alignment with the state and **only applications with an analytical or quantitative analysis course will be considered**.

What are the course prerequisites/ requirements to apply?

- The applicant must have a B.A. or B.S. degree (science preferred)
- Required courses include Medical Microbiology (not an introductory course), Immunology, Hematology, Biochemistry, Quantitative Analysis or Analytical Chemistry, and physics with light and electricity.
 - UC Davis Health requires Medical Microbiology, Immunology, Hematology, to have B- grades or better and must be completed 5 years or more recent to first time application. Biochemistry,
- Degree and required courses must be complete 3 months prior to training start to ensure grades and degree is posted to official transcripts. Prior to training start the CA issued CLS training license must be in place which requires an application followed by official transcripts sent to CDPH for evaluation. CDPH will not accept electronic transcripts. The state issued CLS training license takes ~ 2-3 months. Please plan your application accordingly.
- 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.

What are the UC Davis Health CLS Training Program specific requirements?

- All affiliate accepted trainees (Sutter and Marshall Medical Center) must pass a trainee **onboarding drug screen, which includes screening for marijuana**, this includes medical marijuana, marijuana extract, or recreational marijuana, all of which continue to be illegal under Federal law, as a condition of training. UC Davis Health requires a urine drug screen during the career placement onboarding process.
- UC Davis Health requires a GPA of 3.0 or greater in both the sciences and overall GPA. The program will not accept any applications with a GPA listed as < 3.0, all self-reported GPA scores are verified through official transcripts for all applicants advancing to interview.
- UC Davis Health requires an Analytical or Quantitative Analysis course.
- UC Davis Health requires a college math course.

My GPA is lower than the 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?

- No, any GPA < 3.0 is not considered. UC Davis Health CLS training is competitive and receives numerous 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.

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 and CA state approved CLS 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.
- Program metrics demonstrate that recent coursework is a benefit to all accepted trainees. For potential applicants who have completed didactic more than 5 years ago, will need to repeat required courses to ensure all course recency course requirements are met.
- The selection committee considers applicant preparedness for this training with recent undergraduate coursework and the applicants understanding of the duties and role of a CLS professional is vital to application success.

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 required coursework must be completed three months prior to training commencement. This will allow time for the state to review official transcripts and issue the required training license prior to program start. All applicants invited to train must have been issued a state CLS training license before any training may begin.
- Coursework may be completed at any accredited college or university. On-line coursework is acceptable.

Who should write a letter of recommendation?

- As CLS training program is 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 a rigorous science-based 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, recent letters of recommendation tend to score higher as they reflect an applicant's current abilities.
- Any personal letters of recommendation received from family, friends, or clergy are not scored.

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.
- Re-applicants must request one **NEW** letter of recommendation submitted on their behalf AND update any application such as employment history or strengthen the statement of interest prior to the next application deadline.
- The applicant may strengthen their application by gaining laboratory experience (if they previously had no lab experience) and completing any remaining required coursework with outstanding grades.

How can I gain laboratory experience?

- Applicants may gain laboratory experience through working in a college laboratory, research laboratory, volunteering or working in a hospital based clinical laboratory.
- A phlebotomy certificate **does not** strengthen the CLS application as phlebotomy is included in CLS training. A phlebotomy certificate only enhances the CLS application if the phlebotomist is working in a lab environment and performing laboratory duties beyond venipuncture.

How do I apply to the program?

- 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 2-4 students will be accepted into the CLS spring training program each year.

What is the Program admission rate?

- 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 employment/career ties in the greater Sacramento area or to our clinical training affiliate sites located in Placerville, CA, and Modesto CA.

What is the application deadline?

- The application deadline for the summer class (August start) is January 1st and the deadline for the winter class (February start) is September 1st. No late applications are accepted for any reason.

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).

What is the cost of the program?

- The CLS Training Program does not charge a tuition fee for the program.

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.
- Previously accepted candidates had laboratory experience and are motivated and dedicated to this training opportunity.
- To be a qualified candidate the applicant must have work/career experience near a training site (local applicant).