

CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE (MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY)

Clinical laboratory scientists are responsible for the performance of routine and specialized tests in the clinical laboratory. They are educated to correlate test results with the physiological condition of patients. Physicians utilize these results to determine the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of disease. Areas of laboratory medicine in which the clinical laboratory scientists are involved include hematology, clinical chemistry, immunology, hemostasis, immuno-hematology, serology, microbiology (including parasitology, mycology, and virology), and urinalysis. In addition to hospitals, clinical laboratory scientists may be employed in veterinary schools and clinics, research, reference laboratories, physician offices, industry, and biotechnology companies. Opportunities also exist for those interested in management/administration and education. For those who wish further education, clinical laboratory science can serve as a stepping stone to graduate degrees in biochemistry, microbiology, immunology, pathology, medicine, dentistry, public health, or hospital administration.

There are 10 university-based and 7 hospital-based clinical laboratory science programs in Texas identified on the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) website at <http://www.naacls.org>. A student choosing clinical laboratory science/medical technology (cls/mt) as a career should be aware of the different program formats available at institutions in Texas and elsewhere.

4 + 1 Programs. A student completes a baccalaureate degree at a university or college of their choice and then applies to a hospital-based clinical education program for 12-18 months of clinical laboratory instruction. After completing clinical education, the person is eligible for certification as a clinical laboratory scientist. In this case, the student is advised to select a science major in college such as biology, chemistry, or biochemistry. It is also possible for a student with a baccalaureate degree to enter university-based programs to complete the clinical education of their professional study.

3 + 1 Programs. A student attends a college or university for three years and completes a minimum of 90 semester hours as a biology, chemistry, microbiology, or cls/mt major. The student then applies to a hospital-based or university-based program. After completing the senior year in a clinical education program (either hospital-based or university-based) the student is awarded a bachelor's degree in clinical laboratory science. Most "3 + 1" programs in Texas are joint programs offered through affiliation agreements between universities and hospitals. A degree may be awarded by the college or university, which the student attended the first three years, or by the university where the clinical education was obtained. Only those programs, which are administered by universities or university hospitals having degree granting authority, can award the degree.

2 + 2 Programs. A student spends two years at a college or university completing a minimum of 60 hours of clinical laboratory science preparatory course work and then applies to a program that offers the last two years of clinical education. The junior year combines preparatory science course work with basic clinical courses. The senior year is entirely devoted to clinical education. The bachelor's degree is awarded by the institution, which offers the two-year clinical program.

Integrated Programs. A few universities offer a joint four-year program in clinical laboratory science. In this program, a student takes clinical laboratory science courses in the freshman year, and continues integrating cls/mt, general education, and basic science courses throughout the four years.

Masters Degree Program. Currently, there is one Masters Degree program in the state at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

NAACLS has established minimum college or university requirements for admission to any accredited clinical laboratory science/medical technology program. Most cls/mt programs have course requirements in addition to the minimum requirements. A student should contact their health professions advisor concerning admission requirements of the program(s) of choice. Upon satisfactory completion of all requirements in cls/mt, students are eligible for examination and certification by the appropriate agency.

Application to cls/mt programs is usually made early in the year prior to the professional phase of study. Application dates and deadlines vary so check with your health professions advisor or with the cls/mt directors of the individual programs. Some cls/mt programs require the applicant to take the Allied Health Professions Admission Test (AHPAT). More information regarding this test can be obtained from your health professions advisor.

The schools in Texas, which offer cls/mt programs, and contact information, are listed on the following pages. University-based programs offered by the first group are generally "3 + 1" or "2 + 2" programs. Some offer only the last one or two years of clinical work, while others offer all four years. Hospital-based programs are those offering only the clinical phase; students entering these programs must have either earned a baccalaureate degree or transfer from a college or university which is affiliated with the laboratory in a "3 + 1" program.

University-Based Programs

Midwestern State University
Clinical Laboratory Science
3410 Taft Blvd
Wichita Falls, TX 76308
<http://scienceandmath.mwsu.edu/cls>

Tarleton State University
Division of Clinical Laboratory Sciences
1625 W Myrtle St
Fort Worth, TX 76104
817-926-1101 x 222
<http://www.tarleton.edu>

Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
College of Science & Technology
6300 Ocean Dr, Unit 5802
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5802
361-825-2473
<http://www.tamucc.edu>

Texas Southern University
College of Pharmacy & Health Science
3100 Cleburne Ave
Houston, TX 77004
713-313-7248
<http://www.tsu.edu>

Texas State University
Clinical Laboratory Science Program
601 University Dr
San Marcos, TX 78666-4616
512-245-3504
<http://www.health.txstate.edu/cls>

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Department of Diagnosis & Primary Care
3601 4th, 2-B-181
Lubbock, TX 79430
806-743-3252
<http://www.ttuhsc.edu/sah/cls>

Texas Woman's University
Medical Technology Program
P.O. Box 425439
Denton, TX 76204
940-898-3562
<http://www.twu.edu/as/bio/degree/medtech>

The University of Texas at Austin
School of Biological Sciences
Clinical Laboratory Science Program
1 University Station, A6500
Austin, TX 78712
513-232-3699
<http://www.biosc.utexas.edu/cls>

The University of Texas at El Paso
College of Health Sciences
1101 N Cambell
El Paso, TX 79902-0581
915-747-7282
<http://www.utep.edu>

The University of Texas Medical Branch
School of Allied Health Sciences
301 University Blvd
Galveston, TX 77555-1028
409-772-3056
<http://www.sahs.utmb.edu/cls>

The University of Texas - Pan American
College of Health Sciences & Human Svcs
1201 W University Dr
Edinburg, TX 78539-2999
956-381-2296
<http://www.panam.edu>

The University of Texas Health Science
Center at San Antonio
Dept of Clinical Laboratory Sciences
7703 Floyd Curl Dr
San Antonio, TX 78229-3900
210-567-8860
<http://www.uthscsa.edu/sah>

The University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center
Medical Technology Program
5323 Harry Hines Blvd
Dallas, TX 75235-8878
214-648-1782
<http://www8.utsouthwestern.edu>

The University of Texas at Tyler
Dept of Clinical Laboratory Science
3900 University Blvd
Tyler, TX 75799
903-566-7320
<http://www.uttyler.edu/HKDept/cls>

Hospital-Based Programs

Austin State Hospital
Clinical Laboratory Science Program
4110 Guadalupe St
Austin, TX 78751-4296
512-419-2038

The Methodist Hospital
Clinical Laboratory Science Program
6565 Fannin, B 154
Houston, TX 77030-2707
713-790-2599

Scott & White Hospital
Program in Clinical Laboratory Science
2401 S 31st St
Temple, TX 76508
254-724-5970
http://sw.org/ed/clin_lab

Christus Hospital - St. Elizabeth
School of Medical Technology
2830 Calder St
P.O. Box 5405
Beaumont, TX 77726-5405
409-899-7150 x 4002

Wadley Regional Medical Center
Clinical Laboratory Science Program
1000 Pine St
Texarkana, TX 75501
903-798-7120
<http://www.wadleyrmc.com>

Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center
Clinical Laboratory Science Program
3000 Herring Ave
Waco, TX 76708-0100
254-202-8132

Northwest Texas Healthcare System
Clinical Laboratory Science Program
1501 Coulter
Amarillo, TX 79106
806-354-1946

Shannon West Texas Memorial Hospital
Clinical Laboratory Science Program
120 E Harris
P.O. Box 1879
San Angelo, TX 76902
915-653-6741

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson
Cancer Center
The School of Health Sciences
1515 Holcombe Blvd, Box 037
Houston, TX 77030
713-745-1688
<http://www.mdanderson.org>

United Regional Health Care System
Clinical Laboratory Science Program
11th St Campus
1600 11th St
Wichita Falls, TX 76301-3164
940-764-3187

Professional Associations

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

www.ascls.org

American Society of Clinical Pathologists

www.ascp.org

National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences

www.naacls.org

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