

## *Associate of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences*

The Clinical Laboratory Sciences program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS; 8410 West Bryn Maur Avenue, Suite 680, Chicago, IL 60631; (773) 714-8880).

### *Purpose*

The purpose of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) program is to provide each student with the knowledge and skills necessary to become a successful member of a challenging profession in clinical laboratory medicine. The graduates of this program receive an Associate of Science degree in CLS and are prepared to write the national certification examinations offered by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP), and/or the National Certification Agency (NCA) for Medical Laboratory Personnel.

The responsibility of the program is to develop a comprehensive, well-structured curriculum that will ensure the willing graduate success as a Clinical Laboratory Technician (CLT). Lectures are designed to provide students with the knowledge necessary to interpret laboratory tests and pass the certification examinations. Student laboratories and clinical practica provide the practical experience that enable students to work in entry-level positions upon graduation.

### *Objectives*

Following the successful completion of the CLST program, the graduate is expected to:

1. Apply basic knowledge acquired in the biological, physical and chemical sciences, and liberal arts to the practice of clinical laboratory science;
2. Apply the basic scientific principles of clinical laboratory science in order to accurately collect, process and analyze patient specimens;
3. Utilize problem-solving, critical thinking, decision-making and computer skills in the practice of clinical laboratory science;
4. Practice within the profession's legal and ethical boundaries to meet the healthcare needs of patients;
5. Seek opportunities for continuing education for the purpose of broadening knowledge base and increasing competency levels in various laboratory disciplines;
6. Promote professional behavior in the clinical areas;
7. Display an awareness of cost containment in the utilization of resources;
8. And pass certification examinations.

### *Admission Requirements*

The applicant must meet the following minimum requirements for admission to the CLS associate degree program:

1. Requirements for acceptance into the program are the same as for acceptance to OLOL College (See OLOLC Admissions);
2. And completion of the general education requirements with a grade of C or better (See Curriculum Plan).

### *Admission Process*

Admission decisions to the clinical programs are made in a manner consistent with the Board of Trustees policy on admission and with the "application to selective admissions program" statement which follows the Board policy in the catalog. The program will look carefully at a number of factors that have

been determined generally to be good indicators of success in the program. Although these factors are not absolute “prerequisites” (the Board policy states that “no single factor shall automatically preclude admission”), they are considered carefully in making admission decisions and students are strongly encouraged to plan their academic work and other activities with them in mind.

Entrance into the clinical phase of the CLT program at OLOL College is competitive, and the requirements of the courses are very demanding. The prerequisite courses in the curriculum provide a foundation and indicate the applicant’s potential for success in the clinical program. Priority is given to applicants who have completed the prerequisite courses at a level which indicates potential for success in the program, and who have provided evidence of understanding the demands of the profession. The student must complete the prerequisite courses before admission into the clinical component.

After acceptance, students must pass a criminal background check to meet clinical agency requirements, and final program acceptance may be contingent upon background check results. Information on the procedure for completing the criminal background check is in the student health packet distributed by the Office of Health and Campus Safety.

<b>Curriculum Plan for the Associate of Science Degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences</b>			
<i>Course</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
ACSM	100	Academic Seminar	1
ENGL	101	English I	3
MATH	≥112	College Algebra or higher level mathematics	3
BIOL	101 or 210		
BIOL	101	General Biology or Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3
CHEM	103	Fundamentals of Chemistry I	3
CHEM	100	Fundamentals of Chemistry Laboratory I	1
CLST		Introduction to Patient Care	1
ENGL	102	English II	3
BIOL	102 or 211	General Biology II or Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3
BIOL	280		
BIOL	281	Fundamentals of Microbiology	3
BIOL	102	Fundamentals of Microbiology Laboratory	1
CHEM	104	Fundamentals of Chemistry II	3
CHEM	101	Fundamentals of Chemistry Laboratory II	1
CLST		Introduction to Laboratory Techniques	3
HUMN	---	Humanities Elective	3
PSYC or SOC	≥100	Introductory Psychology or Sociology or higher level social science	3
CLST	203	Urinalysis and Phlebotomy	2
CLST	205	Mycology and Parasitology	1
CLST	206	Immunology and Serology	1
CLST	211	Clinical Chemistry I	4
CLST	212	Hematology I	4
CLST	213	Clinical Microbiology I	4
CLST	214	Immunoematology	4
CLST	220 (224)	Clinical Practicum I	4 (2)
CLST	221 (225)	Clinical Practicum II	4 (2)
CLST	222 (226)	Clinical Practicum III	4 (2)

CLST	223 (227)	Clinical Practicum IV	4 (2)
Arts and Sciences Courses . . . . .		33-34 credit hours	
CLST Courses . . . . .		+ 40 or 32 credit hours	
Total Hours for the Associate of Science Degree . . . . .		73-74 or 66 credit hours	

- College algebra is the lowest level mathematics for which degree credit is awarded.
- The sequence of either BIOL 101/102 or BIOL 210/211 is required for the degree program.
- Three credit hours of humanities (history, philosophy, religious studies, literature, etc) are required for the degree program.
- Three credit hours of social science (psychology or sociology), at the introductory level or higher are required for the degree program.

The student must complete the prerequisite science courses before admission into the clinical component. Entrance into the clinical sequence is competitive and based on stated requirements. Some of the arts and science courses have pre- or co-requisite requirements (see course descriptions). Students interested in enrolling in these courses are advised to have a strong high school background in English, algebra, biology and chemistry.

**Interested persons with a bachelor's degree in science should contact the Clinical Laboratory Sciences program regarding admission and curriculum requirements.**

Requirements for Graduation

The Associate of Science degree in CLS is conferred upon students when the following conditions are met, in addition to the general requirements for graduation:

1. Completion of seventy-three to seventy-four (73-74) semester credit hours in the required courses and completion of the professional courses.
2. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher on all college work, with grades of C or better in all courses leading to the Associate of Science degree in CLS.
3. Fulfillment of the residency requirements of the College (24 credit hours).

Certification

Students completing the program are eligible to write the certification examinations. Graduation from OLOL College and the CLST program is not dependent upon taking or passing a certification examination.

Applications for the certification exams are available through the ASCP and/or NCA websites. It is the students' responsibility to complete and submit applications for the certification examinations by the designated deadline.

Licensure

CLT Trainee License. Students employed part-time at clinical sites to do laboratory testing must have a CLS Trainee License issued by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

CLT Temporary License. If the student does not work part-time before graduation from the CLS program, he/she must apply for a temporary CLT license upon completion of the program.

CLT License. The graduate will not be granted a permanent license until he/she passes one of the certification examinations. Application forms for licensure are available through the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (<http://www.lsbme.org/>).

