Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Program Requirements | Fall 2027

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The CSU Channel Islands Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) program is a post-baccalaureate certificate program combining classroom instruction and supervised clinical laboratory training to prepare students for California licensure as generalist Clinical Laboratory Scientists.

Students complete clinical laboratory rotations Monday through Thursday over 52 weeks, supervised by teaching coordinators or specialists, bench clinical laboratory scientists, and site coordinators. CSU Channel Islands faculty and staff provide weekly classroom instruction in core subject areas on Fridays during the fall and spring semesters. The timing and sequence of specialty rotations are subject to change based on clinical site staffing, equipment availability, and operational needs.

Graduates receive documentation of program completion to support their applications for examinations leading to California CLS licensure. Students may also request a CSUCI certificate recognizing their academic accomplishment. This certificate does not replace the detailed completion verification letter required by the testing agencies. The program director provides the letter, documenting clinical training hours, rotation dates, and supervisors, according to each agency's submission requirements.

APPLICANT SELECTION & SITE ASSIGNMENTS

Applicants are selected once a year for a fall cohort. Eligible candidates are reviewed by the program director and clinical staff. Selected applicants are contacted for interviews by clinical site training coordinators. Following interviews, clinical sites and students with multiple interviews rank their preferences.

Applications for Fall 2027 admission are available January 1 through February 28, 2027. Apply through Cal State Apply. For general program inquiries, contact ext@csuci.edu.

Required documentation when applying:

- Unofficial transcripts (official transcripts are required if admitted).
- Statement of purpose.
- Résumé.
- CDPH Clinical Laboratory Scientist (Generalist) Trainee license, if already obtained. Admitted students must obtain the license by August 12, 2027.

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PREREQUISITES FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

This is a limited-entry program. Applicants must complete their bachelor's degree and all required prerequisite coursework by the end of the spring term before the fall program start.

Applicants must hold a B.S. in Biology, Biochemistry, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, or an equivalent degree, with the following specific course requirements:

- **Chemistry:** 16 semester units or equivalent quarter units, including (A) quantitative analysis OR analytical chemistry; AND (B) clinical chemistry OR biochemistry.
- **Biological sciences:** 16 semester units or equivalent quarter units, including (A) hematology; (B) immunology; AND (C) medical, clinical, or pathogenic microbiology.
- **Physics, math, or statistics:** 3 semester units or equivalent quarter units.

Recommended but not required: Human physiology, genetics, biostatistics, parasitology, virology, developmental biology, and a laboratory course that includes molecular biology techniques.

A minimum science GPA of 2.75 and grades of C or better in all required courses are expected.

Coursework restriction: CDPH Laboratory Field Services does not accept the following Weber State University courses completed after June 1, 2014:

- Clinical Chemistry: MLS 5101.
- Clinical Microbiology: MLS 5810, MLS 5103, MLS 5104.

TRAINING LICENSES

All candidates accepted into clinical training must obtain a **CDPH Clinical Laboratory Scientist (Generalist) Trainee license by August 12, 2027.**

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Laboratory Field Services (LFS) makes the final determination as to whether coursework meets its trainee license requirements. Questions about specific coursework may be directed to lfsrecep@cdph.ca.gov.

Applicants completing their bachelor's degree in spring must wait until official transcripts documenting degree completion are available before applying for the trainee license. The program application and the trainee license application are separate processes.

Trainee license requirements and application instructions: CDPH Clinical Laboratory Scientist Trainee webpage.

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SUPPLEMENTAL ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Candidates are restricted to a total of three applications. Eligibility for the program is lost after three unsuccessful attempts.
- Students are responsible for costs associated with textbooks, online or printed study guides, uniforms, and laboratory coats.
- After admission, students must obtain a criminal background check and drug screen at their own expense. Failure to meet the applicable standards will result in separation from the program. Specific information will be provided upon admission.
- Before entering the internship, students must provide evidence of health insurance and a health record and immunizations consistent with placement in a California health care agency.

Required health documentation:

- A negative QuantiFERON (QFT) tuberculosis test within the last 12 months, or documentation of a previous positive result.
- Rubella, rubeola, and mumps immunity demonstrated by positive antibody titers or two doses of MMR vaccine.
- Varicella immunity demonstrated by a positive history of chickenpox or two doses of varicella vaccine.
- Tdap vaccination within the last 10 years.
- Hepatitis B, influenza, and COVID-19 immunizations.

CLS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FEES

- Tuition is $1,000 per unit for 15 units, excluding books and living expenses.
- Federal financial aid is not available for this program. Contact Extended University for current financial assistance and payment information.
- The Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Healthcare Education Loan program may provide support to a limited number of full-time CSUCI CLS students. Confirm current availability, eligibility, and application instructions directly with Cottage Health Human Resources, Recruitment Department, at (805) 879-8799. Visit Cottage Health Careers.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

This program is not available to international students.