

Clinical Laboratory Scientists perform tests on blood, urine, and other samples in hospital, medical and research laboratories. Studies indicate 70% of all medical diagnoses are made on the basis of laboratory test results. Individuals doing these tests must be well educated and qualified to produce accurate and reliable information. The purpose of the Saint Luke's Hospital Program is to educate and prepare individuals to fulfill this critical role in the health care system.

The Program consists of 11 months of planned instruction in all areas of our clinical laboratory, including Chemistry, Hematology, Blood Bank, Microbiology, Flow Cytometry and Molecular Diagnostics. Classes begin in July and end the following June. Students are in attendance Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until 3:30 pm, and have homework most evenings. Students must complete all clinical rotations and pass a final comprehensive exam to receive a certificate of completion from the Program. Students are then eligible and prepared to take board examinations that confer certifications needed for employment. The National Credentialing Agency (NCA) confers certification as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist. The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) certifies Medical Technologists. Upon completion of the Program, students may take either or both of these examinations.

Students enter the Program through either of two routes. The traditional route is taken by students who currently attend a college/university that is an affiliate of the Program. Students seeking a degree in Clinical Laboratory Science complete the first three academic years on campus with a program of study that includes at least sixteen semester hours each of biology and chemistry and three hours of math. Students spend their last year in the hospital Program, earning the final 30 hours of college credit. After completion of the Program their degree is awarded by the college/university.

Students may also enter the Program after completion of an undergraduate degree in biology or chemistry. Admission preference is given to students whose degree was conferred within the past 5 years. Applicants with less recent coursework may be required to take additional courses through an affiliated college/university before being admitted to the Program.

Applicants must demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills in the English language. Students for whom English is a second language must present proof of skill through TOEFL and TSE examinations and upper level science coursework. The Program cannot accept applicants who are not United States citizens unless supported by an affiliated college/university.

I hope this introduction is helpful. Please let us know if you would like more information as you develop your educational path and explore career options.

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