

What makes Saint Luke's CLS Program different?

About Saint Luke's Hospital

Saint Luke's Hospital is the largest private teaching hospital in the region. Our specialty areas include cardiology, neuroscience, oncology, blood and marrow transplant, and fetal-maternal medicine. This patient mix provides unusual learning opportunities and because teaching is part of our mission, students are welcome in our laboratory.

Saint Luke's has earned a reputation for *quality*. The most prestigious recognition of quality is the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, conferred by the United States Department of Commerce and presented by the President. In 2003, Saint Luke's became the first institution in the Kansas City area to attain this honor.

Saint Luke's Hospital and Regional Laboratories employ more than 80 Clinical Laboratory Scientists, and most participate in teaching CLS students. Every CLS hired in our laboratory knows teaching is part of the job, and we attract people for whom a teaching role is important.

Program Structure and Schedule

Saint Luke's Hospital School of Medical Technology was among the original list of 215 schools published in 1933. It has operated continuously since, establishing a tradition of education for over 70 years. The Program is administered by the Program Director and Medical Advisor. In addition, five Clinical Laboratory Scientists with specialized expertise in Chemistry, Hematology, Microbiology, Blood Banking, and Molecular Diagnostics serve as Program Faculty. Faculty members coordinate student rotations in their specialty areas, so that students are exposed to the most current scientific methods and clinical information.

The Saint Luke's Program in Clinical Laboratory Science has a reputation as an innovator among hospital-based programs. We shortened the clinical year from a traditional 12 month cycle to 45 weeks so students and faculty can enjoy a well-earned break each June. The most popular feature of the Program continues to be its focus on individual attention. While most programs give lectures to a full class of students at one fixed time each year, our Program coordinates lectures with laboratory work for each pair of students as they move through their clinical rotations. The student:teacher ratio for most of the clinical year is 2:1 or less.

Career Preparation

The size and scope of our laboratory prepares students for careers in any type of clinical laboratory. Molecular diagnostic testing is rapidly moving into the mainstream, and our Program includes a rotation in our Roche Molecular Center of Excellence laboratory, the only one in the region. Other specialty testing areas include flow cytometry, specialized coagulation, virology, mycology, and fetal lung maturity. Professional topics include effective oral and written communication, ethics, laboratory management and operations, quality management and financial operations. Students also learn to develop test methods, evaluate instruments, and analyze published literature. Although graduates of our Program are in demand locally, regionally and nationally, many accept positions within our laboratory. They soon find themselves teaching a new group of CLS students, and the cycle continues.

Making an Informed Decision

We encourage applicants to investigate a variety of clinical programs, as the size, scope and structure of each is unique, and students should choose the one that best meets their individual goals and learning style. Students may want to visit our Program when they begin exploring educational paths and career options. We offer a program of outstanding quality, and we welcome students who want to learn with us.

Saint Luke's Hospital Program in Clinical Laboratory Science
--a different kind of program--