Clinical laboratory scientists (CLS) are increasingly in demand as the need grows for professionals to perform sophisticated clinical diagnostic tests with a high degree of skill and knowledge. This specialized career offers exciting and rewarding job opportunities that combine advanced laboratory skills with front-line health care delivery. Clinical laboratory scientists work mainly in hospital laboratories but can apply their expertise in management, biotechnology, medical device sales and education. Enhance your background in the biological or chemical sciences with the Clinical Laboratory Scientist Preparatory Program, and gain the required course credit needed to apply to certified CLS training programs. The Clinical Laboratory Scientist Preparatory Program offers all of the required coursework and many elective courses—including Virology and Parasitology—to strengthen your application to competitive CLS training programs.

2 Core Courses, 1–2 Electives* or Additional Core Course
9 Semester Units, 135 Hours of Instruction

Biochemistry  MCELLBI X115A (3 semester units)
Study the common molecular processes and chemical reactions that underlie diverse life forms.

Hematology  MCELLBI X499.4 (3 semester units)
Grasp the fundamental concepts of primarily human hematology, including blood-forming organs and the origin and function of blood cells and plasma.

Immunology  MCELLBI X110 (3 semester units)
Examine the basic principles of immunology, and study the tissues and cells that make up the immune system.

Introductory Biochemistry  MCELLBI X105 (3 semester units)
Understand the basic chemistry and overall structure of the most important biological macromolecules, including the study of enzyme catalysis; cellular architecture; intermediary metabolism; and special processes such as photosynthesis, biological oxidation and energy production.

Medical Microbiology  MCELLBI X134 (3 semester units)
Learn common terms and basic concepts of medical microbiology; then, focus on the mechanisms of microbial diseases.

Quantitative Analysis: Applications in Clinical Chemistry  CHEM X416 (3 semester units)
Explore the physiology, analytical procedures and clinical correlations to systems such as carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, enzymes and more.

*See the website for a complete list of available electives. Course availability is subject to change.

Learn more at extension.berkeley.edu/spos/cls_prep.html
Prerequisites for Admission

There are no prerequisites for the Clinical Laboratory Scientist Preparatory Program, but a bachelor’s degree in biology or chemistry is highly recommended.

Curriculum and Completion Requirements

The curriculum comprises 2 core courses and 1–2 electives or an additional core course for a total of 9 semester units (at least 135 hours of instruction). Core courses are those that are usually required for entry into certified CLS training programs; electives are either recommended for these programs or provide additional relevant science background. Candidates must pay a nonrefundable program registration fee.

You must take all courses for a letter grade. To receive the Award of Completion, you must maintain an overall minimum 2.5 grade point average, with a grade of C or better in each course.

All coursework must be completed within five years of registering for the program. However, requirements may be updated based on new developments in the field of study; we recommend completing the curriculum in a timely fashion.

How to Register for This Specialized Program of Study

Register for the Clinical Laboratory Scientist Preparatory Program at extension.berkeley.edu/cert/register.html. Click on the More Information button next to the program title to begin the registration process. Complete your student account profile if you are a new student, and pay the nonrefundable program registration fee.

You may enroll in individual courses without registering for the Clinical Laboratory Scientist Preparatory Program.

Value of a UC Berkeley Extension Specialized Program of Study

As the continuing education arm of the University of California, Berkeley, UC Berkeley Extension is a respected provider of adult and professional education. Fulfilling the requirements for a UC Berkeley Extension specialized program of study reflects the successful completion of a high-caliber, in-depth sequence of courses.

Learn More

For additional information about the Clinical Laboratory Scientist Preparatory Program, visit extension.berkeley.edu/spos/cls_prep.html, email extension-science@berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-8108.