

Clinical Laboratory Science

St. Edward's University

Clinical Laboratory Scientists (CLS) are in high demand regionally and indeed, across the nation. The CLS is a medical professional who regularly performs at a high level in the clinical or hospital laboratory setting. The CLS reports the results of clinical analyses and is routinely responsible for providing the decision-making information upon which a physician makes diagnoses. This career area is characterized by good wages, a supportive work environment, and flexibility with regard to career advancement.

The Clinical Laboratory Science program requires a minimum of 3 years of course work in St. Edward's University. During this time, students complete all General Education requirements and the required degree requirements in either Biology or Chemistry. Students then complete 30 hours of clinical course work in the hospital laboratory setting. The laboratory rotations include formal instruction and bench work in 1) hematology/coagulation, 2) microbiology, 3) chemistry/toxicology, 4) urinalysis, 5) immunology, 6) transfusion medicine (blood bank), and 7) flow cytometry. These rotations are evaluated and graded separately by qualified medical technologists in the laboratory. These courses then, fulfill the elective requirements for the degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. Clinical laboratory instructors will hold adjunct faculty status with St. Edward's University.

Students may pursue the degree program as a "3 + 1" option with application to an affiliated CLS facility such as Austin State Hospital, the coordinating facility, after the junior year. Alternatively, students may opt to complete a BSc degree in either Biology or Chemistry and thus complete the degree program as "4 + 1". Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the national certification examination administered by the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

The program requires the development of no new courses. The current frequency and rotation of courses offered will not change. There are no accreditation requirements for the CLS degree program in St. Edward's University since the CLS affiliate (i.e. Austin State Hospital) must be accredited.

The plan calls for advertisement of clinical internship opportunities in the spring 2008 with the first successful students to begin with the fall class of 2008.