

# CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

## Is Clinical Lab Science for me?

*The field is for you if you ...*

- Enjoy working as a team member.
- Enjoy a fast paced environment.
- Have good communication skills.
- Enjoy multitasking.
- Have good organizational skills.
- Pay strict attention to detail.
- Enjoy problem-solving.

## What skills will I need for this field?

*You will need to have ...*

- Move or adjust equipment to perform laboratory testing.
- Demonstrate visual acuity to differentiate colors.
- Perform multiple tasks at one time.
- Demonstrate manual dexterity.
- Respond appropriately to sound and light.
- Manipulate the appropriate equipment for laboratory testing.
- Perform for a prolonged period without breaks in a typical shift of 8 hours.
- Communicate orally and in writing with patient, doctors, and other personnel clearly and effectively and the ability to follow verbal and written direction.

## What is the work atmosphere like?

The Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) performs a variety of complex laboratory tests that help physicians evaluate, diagnose, and monitor medical treatment. The CLS is also responsible for confirming the accuracy of test results by maintaining and performing quality control on all laboratory instruments found within the laboratory. A clinical lab scientist must work quickly and accurately. The CLS holds life and death in their hands because the information they report to physicians will influence the medical treatment patients receive. A clinical laboratory scientist is a problem solver who likes a challenge.

## What are my degree options?

### **Associate's Degree**

Associate in Science (AS) that transfers to one of the universities with which College of DuPage has an agreement.

### **Bachelor's Degree**

Bachelor's Degree of Science

### **Professional Certification**

Completion of the bachelor degree program entitles students to apply for the national examination to become a Medical Technologist (MT) through the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) or Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) through the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA). Most laboratories will only hire MT (ASCP) or CLS (NCA) professionals.

## What are my career opportunities?

A career in Clinical Laboratory Science is one of the top twenty best jobs available in health care. A clinical laboratory scientist has various career opportunities including; performing laboratory testing in hospitals, independent labs, outpatient clinics, public health facilities and forensic medicine. Other career opportunities include sales of medical equipment, laboratory supplies and reagents.

## What can I do with these degrees?

*If you have completed ...*

### **Associate in Science Degree**

Transfer to one of the following universities with which College of DuPage has an agreement to complete a Bachelor of Science Degree in Clinical Laboratory Science:

Northern Illinois University

Illinois State University

Benedictine University

Rush University Medical Center

Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science

## How can I prepare now?

*Recommended courses ...*

### **Math**

Math

### **Science**

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy and Physiology, Biomedical Terminology

## What about my articulated credit?

Check with your high school coordinator to see if you are eligible for articulated credit at College of DuPage.

## What should I take in my first semester at C.O.D.?

Anatomy and Physiology 1500: Survey of Human Anatomy

Health Science 1110: Biomedical Terminology

Chemistry 1212: Organic Chemistry

Biology 1151: Principles of Biology

English 1101: Composition I

Psychology 1100: General Psychology

## Whom can I talk to for more information?

Health, Social and Behavioral Sciences

(630) 942-2495

For more information on the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certificate curriculum, see your program coordinator or go to [www.cod.edu](http://www.cod.edu).