

Clinical Laboratory Technician

A Clinical Laboratory Technician is responsible for assisting technologists and other workers in the clinical pathology laboratory. These job duties may include preparing specimens and operating automated analyzers. They also perform manual tests on patient specimens in accordance with detailed instructions.

Once courses are completed, the Clinical Laboratory Technician major is eligible for national certification (MLT). This certification helps to ensure employment and is the minimum credential required to work in most clinical laboratories. Students will start the program with many classes on campus and end their experience with a six-month practicum in a hospital. Emphasis in both will be on studying laboratory data and understanding physiological processes.

This degree has two concentrations: Clinical Laboratory Technician and Science Technician. With the Clinical Laboratory Technician students will earn certification as a MLT. The program develops proficiency in the performance of a variety of tests as well as understanding of the interrelationships of laboratory data and physiological processes. The CLT concentration career ladders in to the Bachelor's degree for 6 majors in Clinical Laboratory Science.

Skills and Competencies

A Clinical Laboratory Technician has to be meticulous and able to concentrate for long periods of time. Good vision and manual dexterity are also required. One must be able to collect and prepare all types of patient specimens for examination.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education and graduation requirements.

Clinical Sciences Core

- CLS100 Obtaining a Blood Specimen (1 cr.)
- CLS109 Introduction to Diagnostic Sciences (1 cr.)
- CLS190 Microscopy and Laboratory Techniques (1 cr.)
- CLS200 Urine and Body Fluid Analysis (1 cr.)
- CLS201 Clinical Hematology/Coagulation (3 cr.)
- CLS202 Clinical Chemistry (4 cr.)
- CLS203 Immunohematology (3 cr.)
- CLS204 Clinical Microbiology (2 cr.)
- CLS213 Clinical Immunology and Serology (1 cr.)

Other Required Courses

- BI104 Human Anatomy & Physiology (4 cr.) or BI207 Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4 cr.)
- CH111 General Chemistry I (5 cr.)
- CH112 General Chemistry II (5 cr.)

Concentration (17–19)

- Clinical Laboratory Technician (19 cr.)
- CLS214 Diagnostic Microbiology
- CLS250T Clinical Practice (2 cr.)
- CLS251 Clinical Hematology Practicum (3 cr.)
- CLS252 Clinical Chemistry Practicum (4 cr.)
- CLS253 Blood Bank Practicum (3 cr.)
- CLS254 Clinical Microbiology Practicum (4 cr.)

Science Technologist (22 cr.)

- BI111 Introductory Biology: Principles (4 cr.)
- BI218 Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biology (4 cr.)
- CH220 Introduction to Organic Chemistry (5 cr.) or PH201 College Physics (5 cr.)
- MA111 College Algebra (4 cr.) or higher

General Education (12)

- EN111 College Composition I (4 cr.)
- EN211 College Composition II (4 cr.)
- Social Responsibility in a Diverse World Elective (4 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advice Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Clinical Laboratory Technician is an Associate of Applied Sciences requiring 64 credits to complete. This would normally take about four semesters or two years to complete. This associate degree can also be used to find a career and then return to school. If you wanted to pursue a four year bachelor's degree, you could apply the credit from your associate's degree toward a degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. This would allow for increased salary, an increased level of certification, and increased job responsibilities.

Job Outlook

Clinical Laboratory Technicians are expected to see a 14% job increase in the next ten years. With an increase in patient access to healthcare, the demand for Medical Technicians will continue to grow. Technicians will earn, on average, over \$38,950 a year.

Potential Careers

NMU's Clinical Laboratory Technician Program prepares students for employment in the following

Medical Lab Technician

Crime Lab Analyst

Lab Sales Representative

Marketing Representative

Phlebotomist

State Health Departments

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

School of Clinical Sciences
3515 West Science
906-227-2885
www.nmu.edu/clinicalsciences

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.ascls.org -American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
www.ascp.org -American Society of Clinical Pathology
www.naacls.org -National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2020



What to do with
a major in...

Clinical Laboratory Technician

Associate's Degree

