



Clinical Laboratory Science Application Packet

Mercy College of Health Sciences

ALLIED HEALTH | LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES | NURSING

Thank you for exploring Mercy College

What does a clinical laboratory scientist do?

A clinical laboratory scientist (CLS) performs a full range of laboratory tests from simple cholesterol screenings to more complex tests to uncover diseases such as AIDS, diabetes and cancer. As a clinical laboratory scientist you will be responsible for confirming the accuracy of test results and reporting laboratory findings to the pathologist and the patient's physician.

You will work quickly and carefully. As a clinical laboratory scientist you hold life and death in your hands because the information you give to the doctor influences the medical treatment that a patient receives.

The clinical laboratory scientist works with microscopes, complex electronic equipment, computers and precision instruments.

Program Contact Information

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Office of Admissions Mailing Address

Department of Student Services

Admissions Office

921 6th Avenue, Suite A

Des Moines, IA 50309-1222

Clinical Laboratory Science Program

Visit mchs.edu/cls, to find additional information about our program.

About this Program

The Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) program was established more than 50 years ago, and has prepared hundreds of caring professionals in the clinical laboratory science field. The CLS program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

The 50-week CLS program includes intensive classroom instruction and clinical laboratory experience. You will learn to perform a wide variety of laboratory tests ranging from simple one step to complex multiple step procedures. You will also learn to operate complex equipment, computers, microscopes and precision instruments, and how to use equipment such as pipettes, inoculating loops and other equipment used in manual testing methods.

Admission Requirements

The successful applicant for admission to the clinical laboratory science certificate program must meet the general college requirements for admission to Mercy College and the criteria listed below:

Education Requirements

1. Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale in college-level coursework overall as well as in the sciences.
2. Earn a grade of "C" (not "C-") or higher in all required courses listed below **prior to enrollment**: Sixteen (16) semester hours of Chemistry, including Biochemistry and/or Organic Chemistry that are part of a science major curriculum; sixteen (16) semester hours of Biology, including Immunology and Microbiology, that are part of a science major curriculum; and three (3) semester hours of college level mathematics e.g. college algebra or above.

Additional Recommended Coursework

Applicants may consider taking the following courses in preparation for the CLS program. Although recommended, the courses below are not required and will not exclude the student from consideration for acceptance into the program.

- Parasitology
- Genetics
- Physiology
- Hematology
- Immunohematology
- Quantitative Analysis
- Statistics
- Computer Science
- Management and Human Relations
- Instrumentation

Note: Coursework taken to meet the biology and chemistry requirements completed seven or more years before application may require updating. This is determined by the Program Chair with assistance from the certifying agencies.

Affiliated and Non-Affiliated Institutions

Qualified students may be from an affiliated or non-affiliated institution. The following institutions are affiliated with the Mercy College CLS program:

- Bemidji State University
- Graceland University
- Iowa State University
- Luther College
- Minnesota State University – Mankato
- Mount Mercy College
- North Dakota State University
- Northwest Missouri State University
- Wartburg College
- Winona State University

Students from affiliated institutions who have completed three years, or equivalent, of undergraduate work are eligible to complete the fourth year at the Mercy College CLS program. All coursework, other than the clinical science courses, required by the academic institution toward a Bachelor's Degree, must be completed by the student prior to beginning the CLS program.

Non-Affiliated Institutions

Students from non-affiliated institutions are eligible to apply if they have completed or will have completed a Bachelor's degree and have or will have completed all of the science prerequisites before the program begins.

Application Process

The CLS application process consist of five components. An explanation of each component is provided below.

1. Download the **CLS Application** online at **mchs.edu/cls**. Complete and mail your application including a list of current and planned (if applicable) course schedules with the **\$25 non-refundable application fee** to the Admissions Office.
2. Send your **Official Transcripts from all Colleges and Universities** attended to the Admissions Office.
3. Submit three **letters of recommendation**. The **applicant reference form** may be downloaded at **mchs.edu/cls**. Please provide your evaluators with the reference form. Two of the references must be from professors, laboratory instructors, or teaching assistants, and one may be from an employer or an additional professor, lab instructor, or teaching assistant. *References from relatives are not acceptable.*

Evaluators will place the reference form in an envelope, sign the seal and return to the applicant. At affiliated universities where the application process is coordinated by the academic advisor, the evaluators may return the references directly back to the academic advisor.
4. Submit a **one page essay of career goals** and explain why you are choosing a career in clinical laboratory science.
5. Complete the interview with the Program Chair by December 1. This interview is scheduled by the Program Chair after all other documents have been received by the Admissions Office.

Interview Process

The interview generally takes 1 hour and may include the following:

- Tour of the facilities
- Meet current students
- Review the duties of a Clinical Laboratory Scientist
- Explain the clinical year at Mercy College
- Explain Clinical Standards
- Review the Selection Process, annual cost and other program policies
- Review program graduation rates, employment rates and performance on national certifying examinations
- Interview with Program Chair covering your application, academic and work history
- Entertain applicant's questions

The application deadline is November 1. All application materials must be received in the Mercy College Admissions Department by November 1st to be considered for admission. All interviews must be completed before December 1.

Admission into this program is on a competitive basis. Meeting the minimum admission criteria does not guarantee admission into this program. Admission into Mercy College does not guarantee admission into this program.

The Clinical Laboratory Science Program does not offer advance placement.

Selection Process

Following the November 1 application deadline, the process to select students begins. Each qualified applicant is invited to interview with program officials and tour the laboratory. Complete applications are reviewed by the selection committee, which considers the following:

- Types and difficulty of courses taken
- Evidence of well-rounded education, such as better than average grade in English composition
- Courses taken that are not required but are recommended

Mail Transcripts to:

Mercy College of Health
Sciences
Admissions Office
921 6th Avenue, Suite A
Des Moines, IA 50309-1222

Applicant Reference Form

Download the reference form found at **mchs.edu/cls** under the quick links column.

- Work experience
- Volunteer and extra-curricular activities
- Letters of recommendation
- Activities that indicate social consciousness and involvement
- Essay
- Cumulative and science GPA

Acceptance letters are sent to accepted students on December 1. Accepted students must reply in writing to the College to accept or decline the offered position by December 15.

Paying Your Tuition Bill

Students from affiliated universities may be required to pay tuition at their affiliated universities. The university will reimburse Mercy College. This is determined by the affiliation agreement.

Students paying Mercy College directly, must make the tuition payment by the first day of the term. Your billing statement will include charges for tuition and fees. For current tuition and fee rates, please visit mchs.edu/tuition.

The business Office is open from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Payment plans are available. Please contact the Business Office at (515) 643-6603 for more information.

Applying for Financial Aid

The majority (92 percent) of Mercy College students receive some form of financial aid. Our financial aid officers would be happy to visit with you to determine if you qualify. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

To be considered for federal, state, and Mercy College financial aid, you need to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can complete the **FAFSA online** at fafsa.ed.gov, or you can call 1-800-4FED-AID to request a paper application.

For faster and easier processing, apply for financial aid online. To do this, first obtain your federal Personal Identification Number (PIN) at pin.ed.gov. You and your parent must each apply for a federal PIN. Once you have received your federal PIN, you may submit the FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov.

You can file a FAFSA anytime after January 1. We recommend that you file the FAFSA as soon as possible after you have completed your federal tax return. Submitting early ensures that you will be considered for all available aid. If eligible for Iowa Tuition Grant Funds the FAFSA must be filed by June 30.

Scholarships

Scholarship programs administered by the Department of Institutional Advancement with the assistance of Mercy Foundation of Des Moines, make numerous Mercy College and donor-designated scholarships available beginning on March 1 for fall funding and on a limited basis, October 1 for spring funding. Visit mchs.edu/scholarships for scholarship requirements, deadlines and applications. Submission of the \$100 tuition deposit will be the date used to establish priority funding for academic scholarships. Academic scholarships do not require an application.

Program Start

Classes for CLS begin in September and end mid-August. Students attend class Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Students will spend time in the clinical laboratory and in the classroom. Refer to the CLS program guide online at mchs.edu/cls for a complete listing of required coursework.

Certification and Licensure

Graduates from the certificate program are granted a certificate and are eligible to take two national certification exams, the Medical Technologist (MT) exam offered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology and the Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) exam offered by the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel, Inc. Students must successfully complete at least one of the examinations to be certified to work in a clinical laboratory.

Federal school code: 006273

Mercy College of Health
Sciences
928 6th Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309-1222

For the **most up-to-date information** about financial aid visit our website at mchs.edu/fa.

Scholarships

Scholarship information may be found online at mchs.edu/scholarships.

Certification by one of the above agencies is all that is required to work in a clinical laboratory in most states including Iowa. Some states have additional state licensure requirements. Information about specific state requirements may be obtained by contacting the state's public health department.

Directions to Mercy Medical Center—Des Moines

Your interview will be held at Mercy Medical Center—Des Moines. Mercy Medical Center is located at 1111 6th Avenue, bordered by 6th Avenue to the west; 2nd Avenue to the east; University Avenue to the north and Laurel Street to the south. There is easy access to Mercy from several directions. See below for driving directions to Mercy Medical Center—Des Moines.

From Interstate 235

Interstate 235 runs through Des Moines, providing direct access to Mercy Medical Center.

From I-235 Eastbound—Exit I-235 at 7th Street. Drive across 7th Street (one-way Southbound) to 6th Avenue (one-way Northbound). Turn left (north). Mercy is three blocks ahead on your right-hand side. [Click here for a current map detailing I-235 routes to Mercy Medical Center.](#)

From I-235 Westbound—Exit the interstate at the sign that states 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Street exits. Follow the exit ramp straight ahead to the stoplights at 6th Avenue. Turn right and Mercy will be two blocks ahead on your right-hand side. [Click here for a current map detailing I-235 routes to Mercy Medical Center.](#)

From Interstate 80

Interstate 80 runs north of Des Moines. On I-80, take the 2nd Avenue exit and head south to University Avenue—approximately four miles. Turn right onto University Avenue. Go four blocks to 6th Avenue and turn left. The main drive entrance to Mercy is one block ahead on your left-hand side. Laurel Street is one block further on your left.

Available Maps

Visit mchs.edu/maps to download a map to Mercy College's Campus and Mercy Medical Center—Des Moines.

Helpful Phone Numbers and Websites

Mercy College Admissions

Admissions Office

mchs.edu/admissions

(515) 643-6715

College Catalog

mchs.edu/catalog

Student Handbook

mchs.edu/handbook

Business Office

Pay Tuition Bill

Account Information

mchs.edu/office

(515) 643-6629

(515) 643-6603

Registrar

mchs.edu/registrar

(515) 643-6715

Financial Aid

Financial Aid Office

FAFSA

mchs.edu/fa

(515) 643-6720

fafsa.ed.gov

CLS Program Guide

mchs.edu/cls

Housing (Limited)

mchs.edu/housing

(515) 643-5900

Scholarships

mchs.edu/scholarships

General Information

mchs.edu

Technology and Support

Blackboard™

mchs.edu/tsupport

mchs.edu/blackboard

Campus Maps

Directory

mchs.edu/maps

mchs.edu/directory

Course Schedule and Registration

mchs.edu/schedule



Department of Student Services • Admissions Office

921 6th Avenue, Suite A • Des Moines, IA 50309-1222 • (515) 643-6715 • (800) 637-2994, ext. 3-6715 • mchs.edu/admissions • admissions@mchs.edu