Potential Careers

NMU’s Clinical Laboratory Technician Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Occupations

Clinical Lab Technician
Medical Lab Technician

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/cls

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.careerresource.net

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

Additional Resources and Info

Current as of Fall 2015

Provided by:

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
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 Science Technician concentration career ladders in the Bachelor’s degree for Science Technologist and Anatomic Pathology.

Course Work

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

Clinical Sciences Core
CLS 100 Obtaining a Blood Specimen (1 cr.)
CLS 109 Introduction to Diagnostic Sciences (1 cr.)
CLS 190 Microscopy and Laboratory Techniques (1 cr.)
CLS 200 Urine and Body Fluid Analysis (1 cr.)
CLS 201 Clinical Hematology/Coeagulation (3 cr.)
CLS 202 Clinical Chemistry (4 cr.)
CLS 203 Immunohematology (3 cr.)
CLS 204 Clinical Microbiology (2 cr.)
CLS 213 Clinical Immunology and Serology (1 cr.)

Other Required Courses
BI 104 Human Anatomy & Physiology (4 cr.)
CH 111 General Chemistry I (5 cr.)
CH 112 General Chemistry II (5 cr.)

Concentration (19-22)
Clinical Laboratory Technician (19 cr.)
CLS 214 Diagnostic Microbiology (3 cr.)
CLS 250T Clinical Practice (2 cr.)
CLS 251 Clinical Hematology Practicum (3 cr.)
CLS 252 Clinical Chemistry Practicum (4 cr.)
CLS 253 Blood Bank Practicum (3 cr.)
CLS 254 Clinical Microbiology Practicum (4 cr.)

or

Science Technologist (22 cr.)
BI 111 Introductory Biology: Principles (4 cr.)
BI 202 Human Physiology (5 cr.)
BI 218 Introduction to Cell and Molecular Biology (4 cr.)
CH 220 Introduction to Organic Chemistry (5 cr.) or
PH 201 College Physics (5 cr.)
MA 104 College Algebra with Applications in the Sciences and Technologies (or above) (4 cr.)

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement 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.

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.

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

Job Outlook

Clinical Laboratory Technicians are expected to see a 30% 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 $37,000 a year.