Potential Careers

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

Occupations

- Assistant Administrator
- Biotechnology
- Clinical Chemist
- Crime Lab Analyst
- Cytotechnologist
- Drug Analyst
- Forensic Scientist
- Hematologist
- Histotechnologist
- Infection control Supervisor
- Lab Sales Representative
- Laboratory Science Professor
- Marketing Representative
- Medical Laboratory Scientist
- Microbiologist
- Molecular Biology/Cytogenetic Technologist
- Pharmaceuticals
- Phlebotomist
- Physician’s Assistant
- Quality Control
- Research and Development
- State Health Departments
- Transfusion Medicine

In addition to these careers, a Bachelor’s Degree in CLS provides an excellent education to prepare for Graduate, Medical or Dental School.

What To Do With A Major In....

Clinical Laboratory Science

Additional
Resources and Info

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
3502 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

Clinical Lab Science Club

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net

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

Current as of Fall 2015
Provided by:

AAC
The Academic & Career Advisement Center
Clinical Lab Science

A degree in Clinical Laboratory Science prepares students to work in clinical pathology laboratories. The Clinical Laboratory Science major will allow students to become certified to perform patient testing. Once enrolled in the CLS major, students select a concentration to focus on.

Each concentration has a unique clinical emphasis. NMU clinical laboratory science students are well trained for careers which are in-demand and growing. The School of Clinical Sciences has an excellent pass rate for national certification exams. Nearly all of our graduates find jobs in their field within six months of graduation.

See a Clinical Sciences Advisor to help guide you into the laboratory certification program that most interests you. See the list of possible certifications that can be earned in our programs.

Skills and Competencies

A clinical laboratory scientist 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.

A clinical laboratory scientist examines and analyzes blood and other body fluids. They look for bacteria, parasites, match blood for transfusions, test for drug levels, examine blood cells and analyze hundreds of proteins and hormones in patient samples. CLS professionals use microscopes, cell counters, chemistry analyzers, and molecular diagnostic equipment.

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 Laboratory 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 Blood Fluid Analysis (1 cr.)
- CLS 201 Clinical Hematology/Coagulation (3 cr.)
- CLS 203 Immunohematology (3 cr.)
- CLS 204 Clinical Microbiology (2 cr.)
- CLS 213 Clinical Immunology and Serology (1 cr.)
- CLS 313 Introduction to Clinical Research (1 cr.)
- CLS 410 Introduction to Clinical Management (1 cr.)
- BI 104 Human Anatomy & Physiology (4 cr.)
- BI 111 Introductory Biology: Principles (4 cr.)
- CH 111 General Chemistry I (5 cr.)
- CH 112 General Chemistry II (5 cr.)
- MA 171 Introduction to Probability & Statistics (4 cr.)

Clinical Laboratory Concentration
- Anatomic Pathology (62-64 cr.)
- Clinical Systems Analyst (60 cr.)
- Diagnostic Genetics (63 cr.)
- Laboratory Medicine (63 cr.)
- Microbiology (63 cr.)
- Science Technologist (50 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 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

There are several possible clinical certifications that could be gained upon completion of this program.

They include:
- Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS)
- Microbiology (CLS-M)
- Molecular Biology (MB)
- Cytogenetics (CG)
- Histotechnologist (HT)
- Cytotechnologist (CT)

Make sure you have a sufficient amount of time between taking certification exams and graduation.

Job Outlook

Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and the individual applicant’s work experience and initiative. The median salary is $63,893 in 2015. Clinical Laboratory Scientists are considered to have a faster than average job potential with a possible growth of 22%. New advances in laboratory tests and genetic testing will fuel new careers in this field.