CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES, MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.), CATEGORICAL CONCENTRATION

Program goals
The Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences provides students with advanced theoretical and technical education and prepares them to assume roles as laboratory supervisors, educators, and researchers.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrated knowledge and proficiency of laboratory tests in specialized area of study
2. Demonstrated professional and leadership conduct
3. Demonstrated ability to research and evaluate laboratory issues

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reggs)

Degree candidacy requirements
A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master's or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student's graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student's faculty regarding the student's academic achievements and the student's readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reggs/grad/candidacy)

Graduation requirements
As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reggs/grad/graduation-info)

Other information
All students will be given a handbook on policies and regulations at orientation.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements
Degree: M.S.
Semester(s) of entry: Fall
Deadline dates: Jun 1
Test requirements: Minimum TOEFL of 600 (paper), 250 (computer) or 100 (IBT); or minimum IELTS score of 7.0 for international students whose native language is not exclusively English

Spring Nov 1 Satisfactory scores on the GRE

Special requirements
- Applicants must possess the essential technical abilities and skills described below.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements), the general entrance requirements for the Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences for the categorical concentration are:
1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a major in biology or chemistry (Other majors may be approved with 12 credits of biology and 12 credits of chemistry completed.)
2. Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for at least the last two years of undergraduate work
3. Three letters of recommendation from recent instructors or professional references from the applicant's intended field of study addressing the applicant's academic and professional abilities and preparation for graduate study
4. Satisfactory interview
5. Essential functions in clinical laboratory sciences
   The VCU Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences is responsible for providing education without regard to disability while assuring that academic and technical standards are met.
   a. Academic standards are met by successfully completing the curriculum for the M.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences degree.
   b. Technical standards represent the essential nonacademic requirements that a student must demonstrate to successfully participate in the M.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences degree program. The technical standards for each category identified below are consistent with the expectations of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. Applicants must possess the following essential technical abilities and skills for admission consideration:
      i. Manual dexterity: Ability to use hand(s) or prosthetic devices with coordination
      ii. Fine motor: Ability to manipulate small objects with fingertips or adaptive devices
      iii. Mobility: Ability to maneuver in the laboratory and around instruments and in patient-care settings
      iv. Vision: Ability to distinguish red, yellow and blue colors; to distinguish clear from cloudy; and to distinguish objects through a microscope
      v. Hearing: Ability to hear with assistive devices (i.e., phone receivers, hearing aid, etc.)
      vi. Speech: Ability to verbally communicate in English
      vii. Writing: Ability to communicate effectively in written form in English
      viii. Reading: Ability to read, understand and follow directions printed in English
      ix. Emotional and physical stability: Ability to work accurately and safely under stress, adapt to changing environments and prioritize tasks
      x. Personal attributes: Must demonstrate integrity, responsibility, tolerance and respect

**Degree requirements**

The categorical concentration of the Master of Science program provides specialized study, including a clinical practicum, in one of the following areas: clinical chemistry, hematology, microbiology or immunohematology.

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg/grad/graduation-info), students in the categorical concentration are required to complete:

1. A minimum of 34 credit hours of graduate course work while completing undergraduate courses specific to their specializations
2. A six-week clinical practicum in their specialty areas
3. A research study in the form of a thesis or project related to clinical laboratory sciences

4. Students selecting the thesis option must complete a minimum of 15 semester hours of discipline-specific sciences and six hours of research.
5. Students selecting the project option must complete 18 semester hours of discipline-specific sciences and four hours of research.
6. In addition to the basic science requirement, each student may choose an area of secondary emphasis in biomedical research, education, management or business.
7. In lieu of 14 credit hours of discipline-specific courses, students with a secondary emphasis in education, management or business may elect to focus on courses in those areas.
8. No more than 14 credit hours in the area of the secondary emphasis may be applied toward the required curriculum minimum.

Upon completion of the curriculum, students are eligible to take a national certification examination in the area in which they performed their concentrated study.

Full-time candidates require a minimum of two academic years to complete the program. Part-time students must complete all work requirements within six years. An interruption in registration in excess of one semester requires prior approval of the department.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Undergraduate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graduate curriculum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 Specific courses will depend on the individual student’s choice of specialty. Other courses may be approved.

**Total undergraduate credit hours required 8-10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.), categorical concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 580</td>
<td>Principles of Education/Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 690</td>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Sciences Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(one-credit course completed at least three times; four recommended)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 761</td>
<td>Research Methodology in Clinical Laboratory Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 790</td>
<td>Research in Clinical Laboratory Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discipline-specific courses**

Select 18 credit hours of the following specialties: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical chemistry specialty</td>
<td>CHEM 633</td>
<td>Mass Spectrometry</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLLS 630</td>
<td>Advanced Concepts in Clinical Chemistry and Instrumentation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHTX/FRSC 644</td>
<td>Forensic Toxicology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hematology specialty</td>
<td>CLLS 605</td>
<td>Advanced Hematology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLLS 629</td>
<td>Advanced Concepts in Hematology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HGEN 501/Biol 530</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunohematology specialty</td>
<td>CLLS 601</td>
<td>Theoretical Blood Banking</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLLS 627</td>
<td>Advanced Concepts in Immunology and Immunohematology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HGEN 501/Biol 530</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology specialty</td>
<td>CLLS 608</td>
<td>Laboratory Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLLS 628</td>
<td>Advanced Concepts in Microbiology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MICR 515</td>
<td>Principles of Molecular Microbiology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MICR 616</td>
<td>Mechanisms of Viral and Parasite Pathogenesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MICR 618</td>
<td>Molecular Mechanisms of Bacterial Pathogenesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives for all specialties**

Select of the following (other courses may be approved):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL/BNFO 540</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 602</td>
<td>Molecular Diagnostics in Clinical Laboratory Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 502</td>
<td>Advanced Human Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 505</td>
<td>Immunobiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATH 601</td>
<td>General Pathology (Dentistry)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives in business, education, management, marketing, health administration**

Select of the following (other courses may be approved):

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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 507</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Accounting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADLT 601</td>
<td>Adult Learning and Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 500</td>
<td>Concepts in Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
<td>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM/ECON 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 661</td>
<td>Information Systems for Managers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 570</td>
<td>Concepts and Issues in Marketing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 530</td>
<td>Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of Business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Immunobiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATH 601</td>
<td>General Pathology (Dentistry)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 34**

Specific courses will depend on the individual student’s choice of specialty. Other courses may be approved.

**Graduate program director**

Teresa S. Nadder, Ph.D., MLS(ASCP)CM
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Email: tsnadder@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9469

**Program website:** sahp.vcu.edu/departments/cls (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/cls)