

PRE-HEALTH MAJOR IN CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

Students in the pre-health major in clinical laboratory sciences must complete the two-year program requirements (a total minimum of 60 credits) for application to the Bachelor of Science degree program in clinical laboratory sciences offered by the VCU College of Health Professions. Applications to the program are normally submitted in spring of the sophomore year. Students apply to the baccalaureate program through Undergraduate Admissions in the spring of the year preceding entrance. For example, if a student is planning to start the program in fall of 2018, they would begin the admissions process at the start of the spring semester of 2018. All prerequisite course work should be completed by the summer of the year of desired admission. For example, if a student plans on entering the program in fall of 2018, the course work must be completed by the summer of 2018 (before entrance).

Completion of the pre-health major in clinical laboratory sciences does not guarantee admission to the junior- and senior-year program for the B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences nor does it result in a college degree. Students must be admitted to and complete the baccalaureate program to earn a B.S. degree in clinical laboratory sciences. Admission into the program is based on scholastic record, demonstrated aptitude and interest, and a personal interview conducted by the departmental admissions committee. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with a UAA pre-health major academic adviser to learn about admission requirements that are specific to the program and to speak about alternate/parallel majors. For more information about the admission requirements for the B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, visit the department's website (<http://sahp.vcu.edu/departments/cls/admissions/undergraduate/mcv-campus/>).

Requirements for the pre-health major in clinical laboratory sciences

Students in the pre-health major in clinical laboratory sciences must complete 12 credits of biology to include biological concepts or introduction to biological sciences (both with laboratories), 12 credits of chemistry to include a two-semester sequence of general chemistry (both with laboratories) and organic chemistry with laboratory or quantitative analysis with laboratory, nine credits of English composition (UNIV 111, UNIV 112 and UNIV 200), pre-calculus mathematics (three credits), a humanities or fine arts course (three credits), a social science course (three credits) and electives to meet the 60 minimum credits requirement for entrance into the clinical laboratory sciences program.

In addition to the academic requirements, there are "essential functions" (non-academic) of the clinical laboratory sciences program that students must master to successfully participate in the program. The following is a list of the essential technical abilities and skills for admission that applicants must possess: manual dexterity, fine motor skills, mobility, vision, hearing, the ability to verbally communicate, read and write in the English language, emotional stability, and (other) personal attributes including integrity, responsibility, tolerance and respect. Although not required, introduction to clinical laboratory sciences, additional mathematics, biology or chemistry courses, and a physics course are highly recommended.

Following a review of admissions credentials, eligible applicants will require an interview with the admissions committee. The department will

contact the student/applicant to schedule the interview. Applicants are notified of committee decisions at the earliest possible date.

Changing to the pre-health major in clinical laboratory sciences from another major

Current VCU students who wish to change their major to the pre-health major in clinical laboratory sciences must meet the following criteria to be considered for the major:

- Minimum GPA of 2.5
- No more than 75 credits completed

Students who do not meet these requirements may see a pre-health adviser, but they will be referred for programming and not assigned to an adviser.

Progression policy

Students interested in pursuing the B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences are admitted initially into the pre-health major in clinical laboratory sciences, which is not a degree-granting major. In order to remain in the pre-clinical laboratory sciences program, students must meet the following criteria.

- Students must maintain a minimum 2.5 VCU cumulative GPA.
 - If a student's VCU cumulative GPA drops below 2.5, they will be placed on pre-health probation and allowed one semester to raise their cumulative GPA to 2.5 – provided it is mathematically possible to do so. If it is not mathematically possible to do so, or if the student fails to raise their minimum cumulative GPA to 2.5 during their probationary semester, they will be removed from the pre-clinical laboratory sciences major and transitioned into their secondary major. If no secondary major exists, students will be moved into the Discovery program (undeclared major) where they will receive assistance with selecting another major.
- Pre-health probation students: Students must meet with their pre-health adviser prior to the add/drop deadline of the pursuant semester in order to adjust their class schedule and to create an **action plan**.
- By the time a student has attempted¹ 60 credits, if they have not successfully matriculated into the clinical laboratory sciences major, they must declare a secondary major related to their parallel plan.
- If a student exceeds 75 attempted¹ credits and has not successfully matriculated into the clinical laboratory sciences major, they will be removed from the pre-clinical laboratory sciences major and their secondary major will become their primary major.

Details of special requirements for admission to the clinical laboratory sciences program can be found on the **degree requirements tab of the B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences page** of this Bulletin.

Transfer students who are admitted to the pre-health major in clinical laboratory sciences must apply to the B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences degree program following the minimum number of semesters needed to complete the prerequisite courses required for admission. Transfer students must adhere to the same guidelines outlined above (re: declaring secondary majors, developing action plans, etc.).

Students may appeal the removal from the pre-health major in clinical laboratory sciences via the director of pre-health advising in University Academic Advising. Students must initiate the appeal with their assigned academic adviser in UAA. The director may, at his or her discretion,

extend the time period needed to meet the requirements, generally by only one semester. A student who wishes to appeal must submit his or her appeal at least one week prior to the start of the next semester in which they register for classes.

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Attempted hours include credit hours from courses in which a W, an F or any other grade has been assigned. This is reported in the transcript as "overall attempted hours."

Prerequisites for the clinical laboratory sciences program

Course	Title	Hours
VCU courses		
Select one of the following biology sequences:		4
BIOL 101 & BIOZ 101	Biological Concepts and Biological Concepts Laboratory	
BIOL 151 & BIOZ 151	Introduction to Biological Sciences I and Introduction to Biological Science Laboratory I	
Additional biology credits		8
BIOL 152 & BIOZ 152	Introduction to Biological Sciences II and Introduction to Biological Science Laboratory II	
BIOL 205	Basic Human Anatomy	
BIOL 209 & BIOZ 209	Medical Microbiology and Medical Microbiology Laboratory	
BIOL 300	Cellular and Molecular Biology	
BIOL 303	Microbiology	
BIOL 310	Genetics	
PHIS 206 & PHIZ 206	Human Physiology and Human Physiology Laboratory	
CHEM 101 & CHEZ 101	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry Laboratory I	4
CHEM 102 & CHEZ 102	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry Laboratory II	4
Select one of the following chemistry sequences:		5
CHEM 301 & CHEZ 301	Organic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry Laboratory I	
CHEM 309 & CHEZ 309	Quantitative Analysis and Quantitative Analysis Laboratory	
MATH 151	Precalculus Mathematics	4
UNIV 111 Play course video for Focused Inquiry I	Focused Inquiry I	3
UNIV 112 Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	Focused Inquiry II	3
UNIV 200	Inquiry and the Craft of Argument	3
Humanities or fine arts elective (see Core Curriculum – humanities/fine arts approved list)		3
Social science elective (see Core Curriculum – social/behavioral science approved list)		3

Electives to reach 60 credit-hour minimum requirement for entrance into the program	16-17
Total Hours	60-61

The minimum total of credit hours required (for admission to clinical laboratory sciences program) is 60.

Sample curriculum outline

Freshman year		
Fall semester		
CHEM 101 & CHEZ 101	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry Laboratory I	4
MATH 151	Precalculus Mathematics	4
UNIV 101	Introduction to the University or University Special Topics	1
UNIV 111	Focused Inquiry I	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry I		
Humanities/fine arts elective		3
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
Select one of the following sequences:		4
BIOL 101 & BIOZ 101	Biological Concepts and Biological Concepts Laboratory	-
OR		
BIOL 151 & BIOZ 151	Introduction to Biological Sciences I and Introduction to Biological Science Laboratory I	-
CHEM 102 & CHEZ 102	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry Laboratory II	4
UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry II		
Elective		1
Social science elective		3
Term Hours:		15
Sophomore year		
Fall semester		
UNIV 200	Inquiry and the Craft of Argument	3
Select one of the following sequences:		5
CHEM 301 & CHEZ 301	Organic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry Laboratory I	-
OR		
CHEM 309 & CHEZ 309	Quantitative Analysis and Quantitative Analysis Laboratory	-
Additional biology course and laboratory		4
Elective		3
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
Additional biology course and laboratory		4

Electives (to reach 60 credit-hour minimum requirement)	11
<hr/> Term Hours:	<hr/> 15
Total Hours:	60

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