
SCRIPPS HEALTH CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS for 2026-2027**

The following Admission Requirements are subject to change
Please be sure to check back for any updated requirements PRIOR TO submitting your application

Applicants to the Scripps Health Clinical Laboratory Scientist Training Program are required to meet the following before June 30th of the program start year:

1. California Academic Requirements as defined by California State Department of Public Health, Laboratory Field Services (CDPH-LFS), and
2. Scripps Health CLS Training Program Requirements

California State Academic Requirements (CDPH-LFS)

Qualification requirements for licensure as a CLS are provided in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 17, Section 1030.7)

- **Bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree** with specific course requirements:
 - 16 semester or equivalent quarter units of chemistry, which must include Analytical Chemistry or Quantitative Analysis AND Clinical Chemistry or Biochemistry
 - 16 semester or equivalent quarter units of biological science, which must include Hematology, Immunology, and Medical-, Clinical-, or Pathogenic-Microbiology
 - 3 semester or equivalent quarter units of Physics, or Math, or Statistics
- **Obtain a trainee license as a Generalist CLS Trainee (TRL) by CDPH-LFS**
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OSPHLD/LFS/Pages/CLS-Trainee.aspx>

Scripps Health CLS Training Program Requirements

- By June 30th of the program start year:
 - **Completion of California State Academic Requirements**, with evidence & date of college degree conferred on an official academic transcript. Prerequisites must have a letter grade posted on official academic transcripts.
 - Scripps Health accepts prerequisite courses from universities, community colleges, as well as from on-line providers and university-extensions.
 - Candidates may submit an application for admission to our program before the January 8th due date with some academic requirements pending completion.
- By mid-August of the program start year:
 - Successful completion of Scripps Health assessment and background check
 - Presentation of a valid TRL issued by by CDPH-LFS
- Ability to meet the non-academic essential functions of the program and the profession via acceptable visual, manipulative, cognitive, and behavioral affective skills
- Excellent interpersonal and English communication skills
- Legal status to work in the United States with a valid TIN (taxpayer identification number)

Strong Recommendations:

Note: Nearly all past candidates who were granted an interview for our program met the following recommendations

- Experience in a clinical hospital laboratory or clinical reference laboratory setting
- Academic achievement with an overall GPA, and a core course GPA, of at least 3.1
- Completion of "Core Courses" with a minimum letter grade of 'B' or higher
 - Core courses are defined as Hematology, Immunology, and Medical-, Clinical-, or Pathogenic-Microbiology, and Chemistry: (Analytical Chemistry or Quantitative Analysis AND Clinical Chemistry or Biochemistry)

Strong Recommendations (continued...)

- Completion of all core courses within seven (7) years prior to application
- Completion of additional related coursework in such areas as Molecular Biology, Genetics, Mycology, Virology, Parasitology, Human Anatomy/Physiology, Phlebotomy, etc.
- Completion of lab courses or actual clinical laboratory experience in Hematology, Immunology, Medical Microbiology, and Analytical or Clinical Chemistry
- Completion of a college level or medical mathematics course such as Calculus, Statistics, Biostatistics, etc.
- Residence in, or near, the greater San Diego region (within 80 miles to central San Diego)

For Applicants with Degrees or Courses Completed Outside of the United States

- Request and submit an official "course-by-course" transcript evaluation to the program AND to CDPH-LFS (as part of the application for the CLS Trainee License). Acceptable transcript evaluation agencies include NACES and AICE.
- Per the CDPH Laboratory Field Services website:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OSPHLD/LFS/Pages/CLS-Trainee.aspx>
All non-U.S. transcripts must be evaluated by "Current Members" of the [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](#) or "Endorsed Members" of the [Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc. \(AICE\)](#). This allows LFS to determine if your education is equivalent to a U.S. college or university education. Official transcript from the university is required in addition to the evaluation. The evaluation service will send an evaluation of your educational institution and academic courses directly to LFS.

To obtain an application, instructions, and information, visit:

- [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](#)
- [Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc. \(AICE\)](#)

Make sure that your name is printed in English on all your transcripts and supporting documents and that it matches your name on the application.

Documents Required for the Scripps Health CLS Training Program Application

- **Application Form** – Completed in full (*application forms are posted on our webpage mid-October*)
- **Personal Statement**
Essay describing interest in clinical laboratory science and specifically the Scripps Health CLS Training Program
 - Enter personal statement into the space provided on page 4 of the Application Form
 - Avoid submitting your personal statement on a separate document
 - 5,000 character maximum (*use a free on-line character counter to check before submission*)
- **Resume**
- **Academic Transcripts**
Transcripts must be submitted from each institution that provided prerequisite coursework and that conferred a relevant degree.
 - Unofficial transcripts may be sent as part of the initial program application
 - Official transcripts are only necessary **when specifically requested** by the program

Documents Required for the Scripps Health CLS Training Program Application *(continued...)*

➤ **Acknowledgment of Possession of Essential Functions**

Essential functions are defined as non-academic skills that require proficiency in order to successfully participate in the CLS training program.

▪ **Visual skills**

Differentiating colors and stained vs unstained materials, distinguishing solution clarity, reading charts/graphs/rulers/scales, reading print on paper and computer screens, locating veins for venipunctures

▪ **Manipulative skills**

Mobility- sitting/standing/walking/bending/squatting, reaching, lifting and carrying objects up to 20 lbs. Fine Motor- operating microscopes and pipettes, using lab instruments such as wire loops and centrifuges, manipulating tubes and containers into racks and trays

▪ **Cognitive skills**

Communicating with others using direct conversation/telephone/email, ability to prioritize high level tasks and recognize and respond to emergency situations, following directions, maintaining personal behavioral control

▪ **Affective skills**

Practicing respect, honesty, compliance with professional standards, accountability, accepting change

➤ **Document Submission**

- All documents must be submitted via email by specified deadlines and must be named using the required file naming format.
 - See “Application Instructions and Important Dates” section of the program webpage <https://www.scripps.org/for-health-care-professionals/clinical-laboratory-scientist-program>
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that all required documents are received by the program. Retain personal copies of submitted items.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Letter of Recommendation (LOR)

- One (1) letter of recommendation (LOR) is to be submitted **only when** specifically requested **by the program**. This typically occurs in late January or early February.
- An official confidential recommendation form will be provided by the program.
- The person submitting the LOR must be whomever was your direct supervisor for the longest period of time in the past year, even if you no longer report to this person.
- Do not request a LOR from someone two or more levels above this direct supervisor.
- Do not request a LOR from more than one person, unless we specifically request you to do so.
- Do not request a LOR from a coworker, a peer, an instructor, a professor, or a trainer.
- The person submitting a LOR on your behalf must be able to confirm that you were one of their direct reports.

Program Onboarding Requirements Include:

- **Health Assessment and Background Check**
 - Specific instructions will be communicated by a program official in advance of training. Requirements may include (*per current Scripps requirements*):
 - Health screening and/or vaccination or documented immune status for hepatitis, mumps, measles, varicella, rubella, Tdap, Influenza, and possibly also for Covid-19
 - Tuberculosis testing, or screening, performed within a specified number of months prior to the start date of the program.
 - Drug screen performed prior to the program start date.
 - Admission is contingent on a negative result, or a positive result cleared by the program.
 - Background check - contracted by Scripps department of Student Placements.
 - Admission is contingent upon clearance of the background check.
 - Evidence of personal health insurance effective through the duration of the program (1 year).
 - Professional liability insurance for the full period of training (1 year).
 - It may be the responsibility of the trainees to comply with items listed above at their **own expense**.
 - NOTE: This list of items for the health assessment and other requirements is subject to change.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Reference: Scripps Corporate; Policy Number S-FW-HR-0200; Equal Employment Opportunity

This policy extends to acceptance of applicants for, and student trainees in, the CLS training program.

- Scripps is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants or employees on the basis of race, national origin or ancestry (including natural hairstyles and grooming practices associated with individuals of a particular race, national origin or ancestry), color, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, related medical conditions and breastfeeding), gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, religious creed (including religious dress and grooming practices), disability (mental or physical), medical condition, genetic information, military or veteran status or any other basis prohibited by applicable local, state, or federal law.
- Scripps also prohibits discrimination based on the perception that an applicant or an employee has any of the above protected characteristics or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those protected characteristics.
- Equal employment opportunity will be extended to all individuals in all aspects of the employment relationship, including recruitment, hiring, training, promotion, compensation, transfer, discipline, demotion, layoff, and termination.