
SCRIPPS HEALTH CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS for 2025-2026

Pre-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:

1. Meet the licensure requirements for a CLS trainee by possessing the following, in adherence with the California State Department of Public Health, Laboratory Field Services (CDPH-LFS), and
2. Meet the Scripps Health CLS Training Program requirements

California State Academic Requirements (CDPH-LFS)

Qualification requirements for licensure as a CLS Trainee are provided in the California Business and Professional Code, Clinical Laboratory Technology, Licensing, and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 17, Section 1033)

- **Bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree** with specific course requirements:
 - 16 semester or equivalent quarter units of chemistry, which must include clinical chemistry **OR** analytical **AND** biochemistry
 - 18 semester or equivalent quarter units of biology, which must include hematology, immunology, and medical microbiology
 - 3 semester or equivalent quarter units of physics (including instruction in principles of light and electricity)

Scripps Health CLS Training Program Requirements

- Completion at least 6 weeks prior to the training program's start date:
 - **Baccalaureate degree**, with evidence of degree conferred and date of award on an official academic transcript, **and**
 - **Completion of all prerequisite** with a letter grade posted on an official academic transcripts
 - Scripps accepts prerequisite courses from universities, community colleges, as well as from online providers and university extensions.
 - When possible provide proof of enrollment for any prerequisite course that is not complete by the date the application is submitted.
- Completion prior to the training program's start date:
 - **Receive licensure as a Generalist Clinical Laboratory Scientist Trainee (TRL) by CDPH-LFS**
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OSPHLD/LFS/Pages/CLS-Trainee.aspx>
- Excellent interpersonal and English communication skills
- Ability to meet the non-academic essential functions of the program and the profession – visual, manipulative, cognitive and affective skills

In addition, the Scripps Health CLS Training program makes the following *strong recommendations*:

- Experience in a clinical hospital laboratory or clinical reference laboratory setting
- Preferably in a Scripps lab
- Academic achievement with an overall GPA, and a core course GPA, of at least 3.0
- Applications with lower GPAs may be considered at the discretion of program leadership
- Completion of "Core Courses" with a minimum letter grade of 'B' or higher
- Core courses are defined as Hematology, Immunology, and Medical or Clinical Microbiology, and Clinical Chemistry or (Analytical Chemistry AND Biochemistry)

Scripps Health CLS Training Program *strong recommendations* (continued...)

- Completion of all core courses within seven (7) years prior to application
- Additional related coursework in such areas as Molecular Biology, Genetics, Phlebotomy, Mycology, Virology, Parasitology, Human Anatomy/Physiology, Statistics or Biostatistics
- 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 defined as Calculus and/or Statistics or Biostatistics
- Residence in the greater San Diego region

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
- **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
- **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...)

➤ **Letters of Recommendation**

- Three (3) letters of recommendation are to be submitted **only when specifically requested** by the program.
- An official confidential recommendation form will be provided by the program.
- Persons used as recommenders should include:
 - At least one from a core course professor/instructor, if possible.
 - Letters of recommendation from instructors of “on-line” courses are discouraged.
 - At least two from an employer or laboratory supervisor.
 - Recommendations from family members or personal friends are not acceptable.

➤ **Acknowledgement 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 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.

Upon Admission to the Program - Requirements May Include:

- **TRL Trainee License** is required by the first day of training
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OSPHLD/LFS/Pages/CLS-Trainee.aspx>

- **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.