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**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the CLS program**

**1. I graduated several years ago without taking the prerequisite courses, or my school doesn’t offer all of the prerequisite classes. How can I take the prerequisite classes?**

* Laboratory Field Services makes the final determination as to whether courses meet their specifications. Contact them to ask if the courses you are considering will be accepted for the CLS Trainee License. [lfsrecep@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:lfsrecep@cdph.ca.gov)
* At SFSU, you can enroll through the College of Extended Learning as an **Open University** student. You can enroll in credit classes after the semester begins, on a space-available basis, with the instructor’s approval.

**2. I have a B.S./M.S./Ph.D. in science, and years of lab experience at work. Do I still need to take all of the prerequisite classes?**

* YES! Without transcripts showing completion of all of the prerequisite courses, you won’t be able to get a CLS Trainee License from Laboratory Field Services (LFS).
* The prerequisite courses are required by California Administrative Code, Title 17, Section 1033, to obtain a CLS Trainee License.
* **No substitutions or waivers are allowed.**

**3. Can I apply to the CLS program before I have finished the prerequisite courses? Can I take classes while I’m enrolled in the CLS program?**

* No. You should apply after you have completed all the prerequisite courses.

**4. The SFSU Biology Department is no longer offering the Clinical Science B.S. degree. Do I need a Clinical Science B.S. degree to get into the program?**

* No, you only need a B.S. degree in Biology or Chemistry.

**5. What if I don’t have a science degree?**

* That will be decided on a case-by-case basis by Laboratory Field Services, the state agency that issues the CLS Trainee License.
* You can call them at (510) 620-3800 or email [lfsrecep@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:lfsrecep@cdph.ca.gov)

**6. What will make me a more competitive candidate?**

* Have a current CLS Trainee license.
* Have a GPA of 3.0 for the last 60 semester units.
* Complete a B.S. degree and ALL prerequisite classes.
* Hands-on laboratory experience through actual laboratory coursework.
* Well-written personal statement.
* Positive letters of recommendation.

**7. Can I use a basic chemistry class for the Quantitative Analysis requirement?**

* No. The only basic chemistry class that has been approved for the Quantitative Analysis requirement is the CHEM 2ABC series from UC Davis.
* If you have questions about whether your chemistry class meets the Quantitative Analysis requirement, call Laboratory Field Services’ CLS Trainee Applications section at (510) 620-3800 or email [lfsrecep@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:lfsrecep@cdph.ca.gov)

**8. Can I make an appointment to have someone look at my transcripts to tell me whether I’ve taken the right courses?**

* No. We do not review transcripts in the office or at advising sessions. See the “CLS Admission Prerequisites” link on the CLS homepage at <http://cls.sfsu.edu/>.

**9. What is the application process for students with a foreign degree?**

* You must be a U.S. citizen, or have a permanent resident visa (“green card”).
* See the “Applicants with foreign transcripts” handout on the home page.

**10. How many students do you accept each semester? Out of how many applicants?**

* Our classes range between 15-30 students. The total number of students accepted depends on how many affiliates are selecting students.
* We typically get around 70-80 applications per semester.

**11. What is the current salary of CLSs in the Bay Area?**

* Currently, graduates are receiving ~$70-80K in the S.F. Bay Area.

**12. Do you have a better chance of getting into the CLS program if you attended S.F. State University?**

* No.

**13. How can I calculate my GPA for the last 60 semester units or 90 quarter units?**

* Use the **GPA Calculator** on the SFSU Graduate Division website at <http://www.sfsu.edu/~gradstdy/gpa-calculator-sfsu.htm>.

**14. My GPA is below the required 3.0 GPA. How can I raise it?**

* Use the **Raise your GPA** calculator at <http://www.back2college.com/raisegpa.htm>.

**15. What happens after I apply to the CLS program?**

* We review all applications, prioritize them, and contact students for faculty interviews.
* Students who pass the faculty interview will visit clinical labs. They will rank their choice of affiliates on a list.
* Students will be interviewed by the clinical education coordinators at SFSU. At that time, the education coordinators will select their student intern(s).
* Files will remain active in SFSU CLS department for 1 year from the date on CLS program application form.
* Applicants who are not selected by an affiliate can reapply to the program two more times (total of three applications).

**16. Do I need a Phlebotomy license to get into the program?**

* No. We include phlebotomy instruction in the program. It is required for our students during the first semester of instruction.

**17. If I have foreign transcripts, but received a B.S. degree at a U.S. university, do I have to take the TOEFL test?**

* No.