

CLS Admission Prerequisites Worksheet

Updated January 2025 - For applicant use only. Do not submit with application.

1. Educational Requirements

A bachelor's degree in any field is required, with preference given to biological sciences, chemistry, or health-related disciplines, with completion of specified prerequisite coursework.

Biology Requirements (18 semester units/27 quarter units)

Required Courses:

- Immunology (lab strongly recommended)
- Hematology (lab strongly recommended)
- Medical Microbiology (lab strongly recommended)

Recommended Courses:

Bacteriology, Mycology, Virology, Parasitology, Molecular biology, Genetics, Anatomy/Physiology

Chemistry Requirements (16 semester units/24 quarter units)

- Biochemistry
- Quantitative Analysis, Clinical Chemistry, or Analytical Chemistry (one course required)

Physics Requirements (3 semester units/4.5 quarter units)

A course covering the principles of light and electricity

Mathematics Requirements

3 semester units (4.5 quarter units) in college Mathematics

Tips for a Competitive SFSU CLS Program Application

Applicants should maintain strong academic performance with high GPAs across overall coursework, science and math courses, and the last 60 semester units. Earning B grades or higher in core courses - Quantitative Analysis (or Clinical Chemistry), Biochemistry, Hematology, Immunology, and Medical Microbiology - is essential.

Laboratory competency should be demonstrated through extensive hands-on experience in biology and chemistry laboratory courses, with a strong preference for in-person over online instruction, particularly in the core prerequisite courses. Additional laboratory experience through relevant positions will further enhance your application. Throughout the application process, careful attention to and compliance with all instructions is crucial for demonstrating your thoroughness and professionalism.

2. Admission Standards and Guidelines

- **Minimum GPA of 3.0 (Graduate Studies requirement)**
- **SFSU CLS Program Core Prerequisite Time Requirements**
Effective Spring 2026 application cycle, all core prerequisites - including **Hematology, Immunology, Medical Microbiology, and Quantitative Analysis** - must have been completed within five (5) years of the application deadline.
- **U.S. citizenship or permanent resident visa**
- **Essential Course Grade Sheet**

You must attach the Essential Course Grade Sheet to your Cal State Apply Application for your application to be considered complete.

- **Statement of Interest**

Submit a 500-word, double-spaced personal statement in PDF format addressing your motivation for pursuing Clinical Laboratory Sciences

- **Letters of Recommendation**

The SFSU CLS program requires three letters of recommendation that must be submitted through CSUApply, where recommenders will receive direct submission instructions. Letters must come from university instructors or workplace supervisors/managers, with a maximum of one letter permitted from an online course instructor. All recommendations must be received by the application deadline; late submissions will be declined. For technical issues with the submission process, contact clsadvising@sfsu.edu.

- **Application Deadline Information**

The SFSU CLS Program accepts applications twice per year. For Spring semester entry, prospective students must submit their applications through the Cal State Apply Portal between April 1 and June 15, with applications due by midnight on the final day. Fall semester applications must be submitted through the Cal State Apply Portal between October 1 and November 16, with a midnight deadline on the final day.

- **SFSU CLS Program Interview Schedule for Selected Applicants**

SFSU CLS Program conducts two required interviews for invited candidates only. Faculty interviews are held during the third week of August for Fall admission and the second week of January for Spring admission.

- **Acceptance by the SFSU CLS Program Selection Committee and a Clinical Affiliate**

Important Notice Regarding Required Coursework

The bachelor's degree must be reflected on official transcripts.

A CLS Trainee License from Laboratory Field Services is required by California law (Administrative Code, Title 17, Section 1033). Applicants must either hold this license or provide proof of a pending application, which must be submitted as part of the application package. The required coursework for this license is strictly mandated - no substitutions or waivers are permitted under any circumstances.

All required courses must be completed by the application deadline, except for students enrolled in pre-CLS courses through SFSU CLS Department, who may have courses in progress but must submit their grade reports for in-progress courses each Fall and Spring semester as part of their application package by the deadline. Students must submit unofficial transcripts to the CLS office within two months of course completion.

Foreign Transcript Requirements

1. Initial Steps:

- Submit a credential evaluation from an approved agency to verify U.S. equivalency. LFS accepts evaluations from:
- Current NACES (National Association of Credential Evaluation Services) members
- AICE (Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc.) endorsed members for evaluations completed after August 15, 2016
- Apply to Laboratory Field Services (LFS) for a CLS Trainee License

2. SFSU Graduate Division Requirements:

- Original foreign transcripts
- TOEFL test taken within 3 years prior to application
 - Minimum score: 550 (paper-based)
 - Or 213 (computer-based)



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