**Department of**

**Veterans Affairs**

**OVERTON BROOKS VAMC**

**SHREVEPORT, LA**

****

**SCHOOL OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY**

**(ONLINE ABRIDGED)**

**PROGRAM GOALS AND ENTRY LEVEL COMPETENCIES:**

**(The course of study at the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center will from here forward be referred to as the *Program*.)**

The expectation for a student completing this curriculum is entry level competency as a laboratory professional and award of certification. Program completion and program certificate enables national certification exam qualification and/or Bachelor’s degree by affiliated university. The degree and the Program’s certificate of completion are not contingent on the student passing a certification exam.

**At career entry, graduates of the program will be:**

* Proficient in performing the full range of clinical laboratory testing in areas such as hematology, clinical chemistry, immunohematology, microbiology, serology/immunology, coagulation, molecular, and other emerging diagnostics
* Ready to assume a role in the development and evaluation of test systems an interpretive algorithms
* Prepared for the diverse responsibilities in areas of analysis and clinical decision-making, regulatory compliance with applicable regulations, education, and quality assurance/performance improvement wherever laboratory testing is researched, developed or performed.
* Possess basic knowledge, skills an relevant experiences in:
  + - * Communications to enable consultative interactions with members of the healthcare team, external relations, customer service and patient education;
      * Financial operations, marketing and human resource management of the clinical laboratory to enable cost effective, high-quality, value added laboratory services;
      * Information management to enable effective, timely, accurate, and cost-effective reporting of laboratory-generated information, and;
      * Research design/practice sufficient to evaluate published studies as an informed consumer.

**TO MEET THESE GOALS NAD COMPETENCIES:**

**The Program is one year long and accepts students twice a year, starting the first week of January and July.**

**Students will undertake the following coursework:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Course** | **Weeks- Practical** | **Hours Lecture** |
| Chemistry | 7 | 66 |
| Urinalysis | 3 | 11 |
| Hematology | 6 | 42 |
| Coagulation | 3 |
| Bacteriology | 9 | 33 |
| Blood Bank | 6 | 27 |
| Parasitology, Mycology, Mycobacteriology | 5 | 16 |
| Serology | 3 | 24 |
| Electrophoresis | 3 |
| Orientation/Management/Research Design | 1 | 30 |
| Phlebotomy | 1 |  |
| Total | 46 | 249 |

**ORIENTATION –** Introduction to the hospital environment, confidentiality, safety, and medical ethics

**CLINICAL BACTERIOLOGY –** Advanced concepts in the use and interpretation of medical bacteriology procedures and data.

**CLINICAL BACTERIOLOGY LABORATORY –** Practical instruction and laboratory practice in the development and use of advanced analytical procedures and instrumentation I clinical bacteriology

**CLINICAL PARASITOLOGY, MYCOLOGY, MYCOBACTERIOLOGY –** Advanced concepts in the use and interpretation of procedures and data in clinical parasitology, mycology, and mycobacteriology

**CLINICAL PARASITOLOGY, MYCOLOGY, MYCOBACTERIOLOGY LABORATORY –** Practical instruction and laboratory practice in the use of advanced analytical procedures in clinical parasitology, mycology, and mycobacteriology

**CLINICAL PHLEBOTOMY -** Practical instruction and practice in phlebotomy

**CLINICAL CHEMISTRY –** Advanced concepts in the theory, application and interpretation of biochemical mechanisms and methods

**CLINICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY –** Practical instruction and laboratory practice in the development and use of advanced analytical procedures and instrumentation in clinical hematology and hemostasis

**CLINICAL IMMUNOHEMATOLOGY –** Advanced concepts in the theory, application and interpretation of immunohematology procedures and data

**CLINICAL IMMUNOHEMATOLOGY LABORATORY –** Practical instruction and laboratory practice in immunohematological procedures

**CLINICAL SEROLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY –** Advanced concepts in the theory, application and interpretation of serological and immunological mechanisms and methods

**CLINICAL SEROLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY LABORATORY –** Practical instruction and laboratory practice in the performance of serological and immunological procedures

**CLINICAL URINALYSIS –** Advanced concepts in the theory, application and interpretation of urinalysis procedures and data

**CLINICAL URINALYSIS LABORATORY –** Practical instruction and laboratory practice in the development and use of advanced analytical procedures and instrumentation in the performance of urinalysis procedures

**CLINICAL LABORATORY ADMINISTRATION –** Modern management concepts for the clinical laboratory

**The Medical Center:**

The School of Medical Technology at the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center is located within the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service (P&LMS) in the medical center in Shreveport, Louisiana. The Overton Brooks VA Medical Center is a 112 bed acute tertiary care and teaching institution providing approximately 365,778 outpatient visits per year for the veteran patient. The Medical Center is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAHO)

**The Laboratory:**

The Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service (P&LMS) performs approximately 1.7 million analyses annually for the medical center in Shreveport and three community based clinics in Monroe, LA, Texarkana, TX, and Longview, TX. P&LMS is accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP)

**The School:**

The School of Medical Technology was established in 1974. It is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), 5600 N. River Rd., Suite 720, Rosemont, IL 60018-5119, (847)939-3597. NAACLS essentials are provided in separate link. The faculty consists of Clinical Laboratory Professionals whose primary responsibility is diagnostic testing. Their enthusiasm an experience are an important part of the information exchange during the clinical year as the instructors work one-on-one with the students at the bench or provide formal lectures. The school has over 300 Medical Technologist/Clinical Laboratory Scientist graduates to date.

**PRE-PROFESSIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Three admission criteria:**

1. **Students enrolled in an affiliated university**

All pre-professional courses required for the baccalaureate degree at the student’s university must be completed before entry to the program. (Consult with you university advisor)

1. **Students who have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university**

***The coursework is strongly recommended to include:***

**Biology –** 16 semester hours to include microbiology; immunology, genetics physiology, and anatomy are strongly recommended.

**Chemistry –** general chemistry, general chemistry lab, and organic or biochemistry are required

**Mathematics –** 3 semester hours (college algebra or a higher level course)

1. **Students enrolled in a non-affiliated university**

All pre-professional courses required for the baccalaureate at the student’s university must be completed before entry to the program. A special agreement between this program and the applicant’s university, which is acceptable to NAACLS, must also be in place.

**ADMISSION NOTES:**

* The Program does not grant college credits. Academic credit is only available to students enrolled in an affiliated university course of study. The credits awarded are based on the individual university academic requirements. You can refer to university catalogues for detailed listing of credits awarded for the CLS program.
* Applicants with coursework from foreign universities must meet additional requirements specified by the Department of Veterans Affairs and NAACLS. Foreign university transcripts must be evaluated by an agency performing this service.
* Criteria for the selection of students are consistent with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**The minimum acceptable GPA is 2.7 cumulative and science.**

* Pre-professional coursework completed seven or more years prior to application must be repeated.

**CERTIFICATE AND DEGREE**

Upon successful completion of the program, students will be awarded a certificate from the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center School of Medical Technology. Students enrolled in a university will be awarded a Bachelor of Science degree by their institutions. All successful students are eligible to take an examination to be certified as a Clinical Laboratory Professional and become licensed.

Students must maintain a satisfactory average (76 or above) to be awarded the certificate of completion. Students who average less than a 76 in a course will repeat the laboratory section or lecture series, or review the subject matter and be retested. A student who has not mastered the subject matter after repeating and/or reviewing, will be dismissed from the program.

**UNIFORMS**

The VA Medical Center supplies 5 sets of uniforms for each student admitted to the Program. These uniforms must be returned the Medical Center prior to graduation from the Program.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

A physical examination and TB testing will be required prior to beginning the program.

In services covering hospital and laboratory safety and infection control are given during the orientation week. Lab coats and gloves are required when handling blood or body fluids. Masks and eye protection are available when needed.

The hepatitis B and flu vaccinations are offered to students at no change. Emergency care is available through employee health for students who are injured on station. Students are responsible for their own health care costs. We do not require liability or health insurance for our students, as we do not for our employees. We do however strongly recommend that students carry health insurance and that they establish a local primary care physician.

**DISCLAIMER**

Information contained in this bulletin is subject to change without notice and does not constitute an irrevocable contract between an applicant and the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center, the Medical Technology Program or Depart of Veterans Affairs.

**John S Davis is the Program Director**

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**John S Davis**

**Clinical Laboratory**

**Overton Brooks VA Medical Center**

**510 East Stoner Avenue (113)**

**Shreveport, LA 71101-4295**

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

Submit the following information and documentation by the published deadlines for consideration for admission to the program.

Complete application packets consist of the following:

1. Complete application for admission
2. Current Official College Transcript
3. Biological statement of why you chose Medical Technology. Statement should be no longer than one single-spaced typed page or two double –spaced typed pages.
4. Evaluation of transcript by current university faculty advisor.
5. **TWO** references (At least one from a Science Instructor who is NOT your curriculum advisor.) Please use the Reference forms – These forms must be signed by applicant, waiving the right to information provided. This is a two page form - be sure your references have both pages.
6. Adapt to working with unpleasant biologicals.
7. Permission to review application and essential requirements form must be signed, dated and returned with application.

Only application with complete application packets, who met all other program requirements, will be granted an interview.

**Application Deadlines & Timelines:**

**January Admission**

Postmarked by August 31

Interviews scheduled in September by Program Director

Notification of class selection beginning October 1

**July Admission**

Postmarked by February 28

Interviews scheduled in March by Program Director

Notification of class selection beginning April 1

Upon receipt of the completed admissions package, the Program Director will contact applicants to schedule individual interviews with the Admissions Committee consists of the Program Director and representatives of the three major laboratory sections. The point system for student evaluation is as follows: 15 points: references, 15 points: overall GPA, 25 points: science GPA, 40 points: interview, and up to 5 points: qualified working experience. Applicants tour the lab and are introduced to the staff before or after the interview.











