The professional program begins each fall semester and lasts for 15 months. Students must apply for admission to the CLS program and must complete all core and support courses prior to entering the program. All CLSC courses in the program must be passed with a "C" or better. A limited number of students who have completed all prerequisite coursework may apply to the program with a request to pursue coursework on a part-time basis. These students will be admitted on a space available basis. No clinical laboratory courses older than five years may be used to meet graduation requirements.

This degree will prepare students for certification and employment as Medical Laboratory Scientists. Graduates from this professional program are part of the health care team and play a vital role in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease through the performance of laboratory tests in hospital laboratories, physician office labs, and reference labs. It is also serves as an excellent undergraduate option for those students planning on applying to the graduate physician assistant program and medical and dental school. Students who plan to apply to the physician assistant program or medical or dental school should check for additional course requirements.
### FIRST YEAR
- **MILESTONES**
  - UTRGV has a Writing Center and a Learning Center.
  - Complete your orientation folder with you to every session!
  - Choose a major with confidence—visit my.UTRGV.edu and check out the Kuder Journey.
  - Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask about your major.
  - Classes fill up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the first day for your group.
  - Cold or flu getting you down? We have Student Health Services on campus with free office visits.
  - **APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN**
    - Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu.
    - Attend a diversity based campus or community event (e.g., MLK Day of Service).
    - Attend a departmental program for Clinical Laboratory Science.
    - Join a student organization! Consider looking into Clinical Lab Science Student Organization (CLSSO) or visit Vlink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.
  - **GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
    - Volunteer for a GPA of 3.5.
    - Complete major foundation classes, such as BIOL 1406, CLSC 2429, BIOL 2401 and 2402, statistics and CHEM 2333/2333.
    - Complete 30 credit hours.
    - Apply to the CLS program. The deadline is March 31 of each spring semester.
  - **LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
    - Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Career Connection icon—(My.UTRGV.edu)!
    - Get summer plans! Visit Career Center and ask about places to do some job shadowing.
    - Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on the Career Center portal!
    - Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger.
    - Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
    - Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available.

### SECOND YEAR
- **MILESTONES**
  - Complete 30 credit hours.
  - Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen. (My.UTRGV.edu)
  - Complete at least 30 credit hours.
  - **APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN**
    - Visit the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu.
    - Attend a diversity based campus or community event such as HESTEC or FESTIBA.
    - Join another student organization. Perhaps the American Red Cross or Biomedical Sciences Development and Laboratories.
    - Check out a campus event that offers free lunch to make it happen.
    - Check out a campus event that offers free lunch to help you with your speeches.
    - Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available.
  - **GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
    - Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium. (My.UTRGV.edu)
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  - **LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
    - Update your résumé in Career Connection and have it reviewed.
    - Visit the Career Center site to find a fair to attend. At the event, approach a recruiter and discuss internships.
    - Will a minor expand your career options? We recommend biology or chemistry. (My.UTRGV.edu)
    - Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.
    - Check the Clinical Laboratory Science department website for postings on career/graduate school.
    - Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, superiors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks’ advance notice!
    - When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visiting the program admissions webpage. Must do not accept late applicants!

### THIRD YEAR
- **MILESTONES**
  - Complete 30 credit hours.
  - Complete 30 credit hours
  - Complete 30 credit hours
  - Apply to the CLS program. The deadline is March 31 of each spring semester.
  - **APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN**
    - Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your first year.
    - Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
    - Shoot for a GPA of 3.5.
    - Complete 30 credit hours
    - Complete 30 credit hours
    - Complete 30 credit hours
    - Apply to the CLS program. The deadline is March 31 of each spring semester.
  - **GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
    - Join a student organization! Consider looking into Clinical Lab Science Student Organization (CLSSO) or visit Vlink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.
    - Consider attending a campus event that offers free lunch. (My.UTRGV.edu)
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  - **LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
    - Update your résumé in Career Connection and have it reviewed.
    - Visit the Career Center site to find a fair to attend. At the event, approach a recruiter and discuss internships.
    - Will a minor expand your career options? We recommend biology or chemistry. (My.UTRGV.edu)
    - Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.
    - Check out the Clinical Laboratory Science department website for postings on career/graduate school.
    - Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, superiors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks’ advance notice!
    - When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visiting the program admissions webpage. Must do not accept late applicants!

### FOURTH YEAR
- **MILESTONES**
  - Complete 30 credit hours.
  - Complete 30 credit hours
  - Complete 30 credit hours
  - Complete 30 credit hours
  - Complete 30 credit hours
  - Complete 30 credit hours
  - Apply to the CLS program. The deadline is March 31 of each spring semester.
  - **APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN**
    - “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center! (My.UTRGV.edu)
    - Register for your Capstone/senior/portfolio project: Elective Week request due in August.
    - Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
    - Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for fulltime employment.
    - “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center! (My.UTRGV.edu)
    - Register for your Capstone/senior/portfolio project: Elective Week request due in August.
    - Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
    - Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for fulltime employment.
  - **GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
    - “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center! (My.UTRGV.edu)
    - Register for your Capstone/senior/portfolio project: Elective Week request due in August.
    - Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
    - Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for fulltime employment.
  - **LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
    - Have you received your acceptance for graduate school or an employment offer? If not, network: talk to faculty, the Career Center, and get on LinkedIn.
    - Formulate and implement a strategy for life after graduation: attend career fairs, graduate fairs, apply to fellowships, etc.
    - Update your information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy your experiences, and continue access to Career Center services!
    - Have you received your acceptance for graduate school or an employment offer? If not, network: talk to faculty, the Career Center, and get on LinkedIn.
    - Formulate and implement a strategy for life after graduation: attend career fairs, graduate fairs, apply to fellowships, etc.
    - Update your information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy your experiences, and continue access to Career Center services!

### CAREERS
- Hematology
- Immunohematology (blood banking)
- Microbiology
- Clinical chemistry
- Immunology
- Urinalysis
- Mycology
- Parasitology
- Histocompatibility
- Molecular diagnostics
- Laboratory product development and sales
- Hospital and private laboratories
- Public health laboratories
- Biotechnology industry
- Pharmaceutical and chemical companies
- Research and forensic laboratories
- Veterinary clinics
- Transplant and blood donor centers
- Fertility clinics
- Universities and colleges

For additional info, visit the Career Center website and check out “What Can I Do With This Major?”
www.utrgv.edu/careercenter