

CLS/CYTO Chat Transcripts– November 14, 2007

ARiemer> What are some of the hospitals where the students do their clinical rotations?

ProfWatkins: ARiemer, DMC, Henry Ford - Main Campus, Wyandotte, Oakwood, U of M, Garden City, HCL/Providence, St. Joe's in Pontiac, Macomb and Livonia - more each year.

ARiemer> Thanks

Sr_student> ARiemer Hello also if there is a hospital your interested in then the professors will try to contact them and see if they are willing to take on students

<ARiemer> Is it true that Henry Ford Hospital (Main Campus) has the most CLS students doing their rotations?

<ProfWatkins> ARiemer: Henry Ford-Main campus takes about 8 students form WSU and during the summer, take about 6 students form MSU.

<ARiemer> So do the students get to choose which hospital they do their rotation?

<saram> Hi my name is sara and I am a student from grand valley and I am transferring back to Detroit next year and I was wondering a few things about CLS...

I was wondering how many students apply to the program and how many actually get in? Is it very competitive...like nursing is?

<Jen_Advisor> Sara...usually we have about 50 students apply and they generally admit about 32 CLS and 3 CYTO

<ProfWatkins> Sara: It is not as competitive as nursing and requires different skill sets.

<studyingnatalia> that being said, it is a very competitive field, but if you feel your application is not stellar, the advisors are more than willing to go the extra mile to showcase your skills.

<saram> because I am transferring to wsu next year how would i go about planning my winter semester here at grand valley because I am stuck here for another semester...to make sure that the classes i am taking winter semester will transfer to wayne

<Jen_Advisor> Sara...you can go to the WSU transfer website for information about transferring from Grand Valley. the website is transfercredit.wayne.edu

Jen_Advisor> Sara... you can also send a copy of your transcript into our office for a review. It generally takes about 3 weeks to have the evaluation done but you will know where you stand

<saram> oh okay...do you have an address to the office

<Jen_Advisor> you can mail or fax your student copies of your transcripts to our office 259 Mack Ave, Suite 1600, Detroit, MI 48201. fax is 313-577-5589 or email it to cphsinfo@wayne.edu

When you send the transcripts, make sure to include a cover letter with which program you are interested in and email address and full mailing address

<ChunKwok> Hi, I recently went to the "Information Day" meetings held at the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences last Tuesday. And I still have a few questions.

<ProfWatkins> ARiemer: Students tour their top 3 choices. Both students and the clinical sites list their favorites, then a "match" process puts the two together. It is a little complicated.

studyingnatalia> as for planning your winter semester, I recommend you take a look at the prereqs for the CLS program and see which ones you still need to complete.

<ARiemer> But if you are admitted to the program and complete all the courses then you are guaranteed a clinical rotation but not necessarily where you want to go?

NAND has entered the room (hostname: 150.198.138.999)

ProfWatkins> Ariemer: Yes, the beauty of the WSU program is you are guaranteed a clinical rotation as part of the program if you are in good standing and have completed the required courses.

<ARiemer> OK Thanks

<ChunKwok> For the letter of recommendations, who can we ask? How many do we need?

<ProfWatkins> ChunKwok: You should have three letters of recommendation; at least one from a science teacher, one from another teacher.

<ChunKwok> Can we ask our lab TA?

<ProfWatkins> ChunKwok: yes, you lab TA is fine

<ChunKwok> So any TA is fine, and we should have one from teacher

<ProfWatkins> ChunKwok: A science TA.

<NAND> Do we need to complete prerequisite courses by the March 15th deadline?

<AdvisorCarol> Nand, no you have until the beginning of the professional program

<NAND> When is that?

Jen_Advisor> NAND you must complete the prereqs by August of the year that you are applying. You should try and have all your science prereqs completed by May. The new application deadline is March 1st for the program

<Jen_Advisor> when filling out your application, you will want to let us know which coursework is in progress, or that you will be taking during the spring/summer program

<studyingnatalia> NAND - that being said, don't worry if you still have a few prereqs like visual/performing arts or communications, left to take, the program is usually flexible about prereqs like those.

<jcd> I have a chemistry degree from India, should i apply for certificate or second degree?

<AdvisorCarol> jcd,second degree

ProfWatkins> jcd: you will probably need to second degree option. If in doubt, you should make an appointment with the CLS student advisor or the College Student advisors to review your transcript.

<jcd> I also need to complete most of non science and general ed requirements, do i have to complete before entering the program or I can work towards later

<AdvisorCarol> jcd, they must be completed before you enter the program

<saram> what kind of GPA are you looking for to get into the program

<ProfWatkins> SaraM: 2.5 is minimal

<AdvisorCarol> sara,a minimum of a 2.5

<NAND> IS there a list of equivalents i.e where one can acquire the prerequisites like there is for the PA program?

<Jen_Advisor> Nand...you can get the information about equivalency guides at the following website, <http://www.cphs.wayne.edu/stuaff/equivalency.php> or if your school is not listed then you get additional information at WSU transfer credit website www.transfercredit.wayne.edu

<jcd> I heard that cytotechnology jobs are not that readily available, is that true vs medical technology?

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Medical Technology jobs are in great demand around the world. I weekly get recruiting materials from Hawaii to Maine. There is a current 35% shortage and more expected in the future. Cyto tech is a little less than that.

<ChunKwok> I know that we need to outline our community or vocational activities, honors, employment, extracurricular and volunteer activities when we turn in our application, but what if I don't have much to say?

<ProfWatkins> ChunKwok: We can discuss that in the interview, but do not let it keep you from applying.

<ChunKwok> ok, but do i still need to turn something in for that part?

<Jen_Advisor> ChunKwok...you would outline extracurricular information or honors and such on your resume that you submit

<studyingnatalia> ChunKwok, keep an open mind about your activities/volunteering, you might be overlooking things that might count... such as working a fundraiser or a youth group at your church

<jcd> how many terms does it take to complete the CLS or cyto professional program?

<studyingnatalia> the CLS program is 3 semesters of class work and then a 6 or 9 month rotation for a full time student, along with a half-summer term as well between your junior and senior year

<ARiemer> For the CLS students: what is the course load like for the first 3 semesters before the rotations?

<saram> once you get into the program, how many days a week are you in school

<Sr_student> Saram Hello it has varied between jr. and sr. year but as a sr. we are here 3 days a week

<studyingnatalia> saram - as juniors, we're only in the classroom 4 days a week, most of our classes run from 10 to 2 and we have a nice long weekend with fridays off!

<saram> oh thats great

<jcd> is there a special program for laboratory informatics?if I wish to work only on information systems in a lab

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Laboratory informatics - no "degree" persay, that is because most LIS manufacturer prefer to hire a Med Tech and teach them to do the programming. It is more important to have the knowledge of the workflow, than how to program.

<NAND> What is the salary range of a Medical technologist? I have a Ph.D with 18 years of research experience. How many years after becoming a med tech will getting to a supervisor title be?

<ProfWatkins> NAND: salary range - in the Detroit area, about \$45,000, supervisors in the \$80,000 range.

<ProfWatkins> NAND: With your experience, you should look into the many jobs in the Biotechnology corridor, using your research experience. Google the Tech Corridor.

<ChunKwok> My third question is, for the transcript that we need to turn it with the application, do i print it out myself?

<Jen_Advisor> Chun...you will want to have official transcripts sent from all schools attended

<Jen_Advisor> Chun unless you are a WSU student in which case you can send a copy of your transcript that you can get from pipeline

<ChunKwok> i attend to other college before, and i am current WSU student

<Jen_Advisor> Chun you will want to send official transcripts from your other schools and you can print your WSU transcript from pipeline

<ChunKwok> So I need to send my other school transcripts to my house first, then put it in with the application? Or just tell my previous college to send it to wayne state?

<Jen_Advisor> Chun...have your transcripts sent to us directly in the college. The address is 259 Mack Ave, Suite 1600, Detroit, MI 48201. Do not have it sent to you

<ChunKwok> do I still get a letter even I do not qualify?

<Jen_Advisor> Chun...yes either way you will be notified

<saram> do you have to take any types of tests after you graduate like nurses do

<ProfWatkins> Saram: Yes, you are encouraged to take the national ASCP registry exam, which qualifies you to work in many countries around the world.

<ProfWatkins> SaraM You are also asked to take continuing education classes annually to maintain your skills and keep up with the ever changing body of knowledge required to work in today's clinical labs.

<jcd> what other fields and how does one proceed with further education in med tech for better salaries?

<ProfWatkins> jcd: After graduation as a Med Tech - you could pursue a business degree for management, a forensic degree for crime labs, a nutrition degree or occupational and environmental testing for the car industries, law degree (a lawyer required in each lab), specialty degree (hematology, microbiology, clinical chemistry, immunology)

<Sr_student> the Continuing E. is great I just attended the state Microbio meeting they offered great lectures on MRSA and great food!

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Other next steps: industry (helps to have some engineering, or information technology), medicine (doctor requirements are part of the CLS program) and more

<jcd> thanks prof.watkins some universities offer MS in med tech and to qualify for their particular program one needs to have immunology, homeostasis and a few other classes.Can we get credit for only selective classes in CLS? hemo...sorry

<ProfWatkins> jcd: you can take some courses for credit. Our Immunology is online each term and we have students from other locations taking it to get into a programs

such as DMC, or St. John's. Applying for an MS in Med Tech - you should talk to the school you are considering, our courses may not transfer.

<saram> ProfWatkins, do you offer office hours to help students out

<ProfWatkins> SaraM - Yes, we have office hours.

<studyingnatalia> All of our professors offer office hours to meet with them, and it's really easy to shoot off an email with your questions if you're ever stuck on a homework assignment. That's one of the great things about the CLS program - with it being smaller, we're allowed a lot more one-on-one time with our instructors!

<ARiemer> Once you pass your ASCP BOR exam and become certified, how often do you have to renew that certification if at all?

<ProfWatkins> ARiemer: The ASCP registry exam is once in your lifetime. However, you will need continuing education credits each year to maintain your skills; This is also true for the alternative registration - ASCIS.

<ARiemer> My mom is an RN (at Henry Ford Main Campus) and she has a nursing license that she has to renew every few years, is it correct to say that MTs are not licensed only certified?

<Jen_Advisor> ARiemer...currently MT are not licensed however the profession is currently working on getting that implemented

<ProfWatkins> ARiemer, true - we are registered, or certified, not licensed. There is a licensing lobbying effort in Michigan (for the past ten years) and some states are licensed.)

<ARiemer> OK if there is a license for MT, would that then have to be renewed every so often like a nursing license?

<ProfWatkins> ARiemer: If Michigan gets a license; Continuing education is going to be the requirement for continuance, not retaking the test.

<ARiemer> If you are working as an MT in a big hospital lab, will you be working in a specific department?

<ProfWatkins> ARiemer: In a large hospital, you will probably eventually end up in a single specialty area. However, most start as a rotating tech through several departments.

<ARiemer> Ok, do you get to choose or is it based on where your boss tells you to go?

<ProfWatkins> ARiemer: You apply for specific jobs after graduation (though 100% of our students are hired before graduation). The job might be in Microbiology, Chemistry or as a rotating tech - depends on what the openings are.

<ARiemer> I see, so the actual jobs are in particular depts. in large hospitals, yes?

<Sr_student> ARiemer Yes just toured hospitals and after rotation you'll have a good idea of where you want to work

<ProfWatkins> ARiemer: yes.

<saram> does wayne state combine human anatomy and physiology in one class ? because there separate at grand valley so I was wondering if I would need to take them over the summer

<AdvisorCarol> saram, check the website, transfercredit.wayne.edu to see what you need to take to fulfill BIO 2870, which is the class at WSU

<studyingnatalia> Saram the correct code for A&P is BIO 2870

<studyingnatalia> saram if you wanted to lessen your courseload, Wayne state does offer Anatomy&Physiology together, so you could take it over the summer.

<ChunKwok> My final question is, what kind of question they will ask in the interview?

<studyingnatalia> chunkwok a sample question would be - you have concert tickets to your favorite band/singer. when leaving your house to go to the concert, you realize the tickets were for yesterday, not today. what would you do?

<studyingnatalia> the interview questions really focus more on you as a person as opposed to your lab skills. the reason I'm familiar with the interview questions is that I am a junior student, and had my interview just last May.

<jcd> how to we get permission to get into online program?

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Ask the professor. Since it is me - okay.

<jcd> is their a prerequisite for immunology?

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Do you already have a degree?

<jcd> yes in chemistry with 8 credits in microbiology but it goes back to 1997

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Okay - you want to apply to the programs at Beaumont, St. John's and DMC (there is also one at Hurley) These are extremely competitive, so you might want to apply to our program as well.

<ng> I am hoping to apply to cyto program, I had a few questions to ask. I need to know first if bio1500 is a requirement?

<Jen_Advisor> ng..yes for Cyto it is

<ng> general chemistry is a requirement, but I directly got into organic chem, do you think gen chem will be waived for that?

<Jen_Advisor> <http://www.cphs.wayne.edu/stuaff/cytoadmissions.php> for the admission requirement

<ng> ok, thanks for that info

<ProfWatkins> Immunology is required for all of the above programs, so you could sign up - no prerequisites.

<ng> I took organic directly because I did thirteen years of schooling abroad. it was the cambridge system

<Jen_Advisor> you still have to have college credit in all the areas listed on the webpage listed above. so if you do not have college credit in general chemistry then yes you will need it

<Jen_Advisor> you have the option of taking CLEP. This link will provide you with more information (click on it) <http://www.testing.wayne.edu>

<ng> do you know where I can sign up for that and when it is offered?

<Jen_Advisor> all your science prereqs have to be completed within the last 5 years. You can contact testing at 313-577-3400 to find out more information about the tests

<ng> if I have one or two general requirement courses left in September if I can still start the program?

<Jen_Advisor> ng...you can still apply with missing General Education requirements and it is on a case by case basis

<ARiemer> When doing your rotation are you working alongside experienced MTs, and also is this 5 days per week?

<Sr_student> ARiemer Yes u r with a professional most likely it will be depends on hospital i think

<ProfWatkins> AReimer: You will be putting a full work week - 40 hours alongside MTS who will help you learn the equipment , tests and procedures. There are also tests in each area (you will rotate through all parts of the lab).

<jcd> Now,since bio 1510 is the requirement ,is it really necessary or is their any placement alternative?

<AdvisorCarol> jcd, either take the course or take a CLEP test

<ng> I have quite a lot of courses left, but if I hurry I can start this fall or Ill have to wait a whole year

<Jen_Advisor> you can only apply twice to the program, and then you are out of luck...so if it is a real push to apply this year, you may want to wait until you have more prereqs completed

<ng> ok, the deadline is in march, correct?

<Jen_Advisor> correct the new deadline is March 1st

<ng> ok, do you know if there some 3-4credit hour seminar that applicants have to attend before applying to the program?

<Jen_Advisor> ng...there is one credit course CLS 2080, it is offered every term

<ng> do you know if I can in anyway have bio 1500 waived? I am currently doing 1510 and I was hoping to take microbiology next semester

<Jen_Advisor> ng...for cyto BIO 1500 is a requirement

<ng> the program accepts equivalent courses from community colleges right?

<Jen_Advisor> ng...yes

<ng> is there a minimum number of credit hours we need to have to apply to this program?

<Jen_Advisor> ng...there is a minimum of 64 credits required to apply to the program, however between all the prereq courses and general ed it shouldn't be a problem to get 64 credits

<ng> Are you or any other advisor available by phone if I have some quik questions later?

AdvisorCarol> call 313/577-1716

<jcd> do we get job shadowing opportunity before we apply for the program?

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Through the seminar course (CLS 2080) there is some job-shadowing. If you are a part-time worker, we can often help you get a job at your proposed hospital of choice and you will be working side-by-side in the clinical rotation.

<jcd> I am very much interested in clinical lab science and information technology, can you suggest a program or certificate with a combination of two at Wayne or any other institute?

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Would have to research this answer. I could direct you to some helpful people, such as LIS operators at DMC or Henry Ford

<ProfWatkins> jcd: It would be helpful to take statistics and Six Sigma (online).

<jcd> it looks like I will have to apply fall 2009.....even though i have a degree in chemistry plus masters in physical chemistry which is 1997 and 1999 and since jenadvisor said that courses have to be less than 5 year old, looks like I am too late
<Jen_Advisor> jcd...you may want to come to an information meeting...on certain case by case basis they can look at older coursework if you are currently working in the field
<Jen_Advisor> our information meetings are the first tuesday of every month at 6pm
<http://www.cphs.wayne.edu/stuaff/infomtg.php>

<jcd> I do not work in the field.....and I take evening classes at OCC on tuesdays for this and winter semester.is there any other option?

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Contact Mrs. Garza at 12ac8342@wayne.edu for an evaluation. We do make some Exceptions

<jcd> is their tuition support for professional program? and also stipend or fees for clinical practice?

<ProfWatkins> jcd: There are numerous scholarships to apply for. Two of our hospitals pay a stipend for the clinical rotations, some are considering adding it and others do not. Parking passes, food passes, it varies.

<AdvisorCarol> This link will provide you with more information (click on it)
[12http://www.financialaid.wayne.edu/](http://www.financialaid.wayne.edu/)

<ARiemer> Do all the prof. CLS courses have to be completed by the winter semester of the senior year?

<Jen_Advisor> areimer...your courses are taking in a lock step in order to move on from one semester to another your courses would have to be completed. so all your class work must be completed in good standing before you can proceed to the clinical component of the program

<ARiemer> So everyone in the program is basically taking the same classes in the same order, yes?

<Jen_Advisor> yes

<ARiemer> What kind of course load is it? Is it about 16 credits per semester? Are all the prof. courses taken in Fall/Winter or can any of them be taken in spring/summer?

<ProfWatkins> ARiemer: classes are in a certain order because the knowledge base is built upon in each. There is one course the Spring/summer term that is required.

<ARiemer> Are the courses in the prof. program all lecture/lab type courses or are there other types (e.g. seminar), and are they more intensive than prereq courses you take on main campus?

<studyingnatalia> ARiemer - the courses within the program really do vary. Most of our science courses have both a lecture and lab, whereas our Prof. Practice course is more like a seminar. The intensity level differs from that of the prereq courses, as most of the information you'll be learning, will be completely new to you and you won't have previous knowledge to build it up (unlike how A&P builds) difficult, but they are challenging - does that make sense?

<jcd> can med tech be useful for a career in clinical research?

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Yes. However, you would be a research assistant - a primary investigator is always a PhD. That said, there are national steps being taken to have a Ph.D. in Clinical Lab Science within less than 5 years.

<ProfWatkins> jcd; You could get a PhD. here at WSU after finishing you MT by entering the Med School and working in Pathology.

<studyingnatalia> JCD, or you could graduate from the CLS program and work towards your PhD and then after receiving it work in clinical research. I recently worked with a CLS grad who was going for his PhD, and he is now doing Clinical Research at a local hospital.

<jcd> while in a ph.D. how much time is spent in the university? do we have to work part time to support the education?

<ProfWatkins> jcd: If you are accepted to work in a PhD program there is usually funding in the department to support you.

<ProfWatkins> ARiemer: We recommend a variety of specialty areas for a Master degree - pays more. Such as an MBA, or IT. OEHS is a great idea, too

<jcd> to get to PhD first I will have to get MS?

<ProfWatkins> jcd - no

<ARiemer> Is the tuition for the CLS program same as regular WSU tuition for undergrads?

<Jen_Advisor> ariemer..yes

<ARiemer> it would be undergrad upper division right?

<Jen_Advisor> areimer...yes

<ARiemer> Can you get a MS in CLS at WSU?

<AdvisorCarol> areimer...no

<ARiemer> If you just want to work in a hospital lab as an MT then you just need a BS and certification right?

<ProfWatkins> ARiemer: yes

<ARiemer> What is the advantage of getting an MS or PhD in CLS? To be a lab director (which pays more)?

<ProfWatkins> ARiemr: A Lab Director, usually needs a business degree - such as an MBA with the BS in Med Tech. Th doctoral path is one of two - a PhD in CLS which lead to a teaching or research career OR a clinical doctorate in CLS which would be a Technical director classification There are currently no clear advantages to getting an MS in CLS.

<ARiemer> So if you wanted to teach CLS at a university like WSU you would need a PhD in CLS?

<ProfWatkins> AReimer: Lab Directors need to be MDs - it is recommended and preferred

<jcd> can someone with many years of MT experience be a lab director or one has to get MBA?

<ProfWatkins> jcd: A Medical lab director is an MD, A technical Director usually has a PhD (always in large labs, not always in small labs) An administrative Director sometimes even comes from another field - such as business. MBAs always get hired at a greater rate than an MS in other fields That said - there are administrative directors in labs with just a BS and years of experience.

<jcd> how does one transition from BS in CLS to PhD in cytotech(say cancer research)and is this transition to PhD really worth as in financial reward(salary) or is it

better to have a hospital job(i am sorry trying to compare cause need to think about having insurance for kids from work)

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Complete you BS in Med Tech, then take the clinical training for a Cytotech, then go to the Medical School and get a PhD in Cytopathology

<ProfWatkins> jcd: Is the transition worth it - not the way I would do it. Cancer research is many areas - I would pursue a PhD in Immunology after my BS

<Jen_Advisor> We encourage everyone to attend one of our monthly information meetings. They are helpful in preparing students to apply to the program

<Jen_Advisor> Check this website for more information: -

<http://www.cphs.wayne.edu/stuaff/infomtg.php>