CYTOTECHNOLOGY

Cytotechnologists are vital members of health care teams who contribute evaluations critical to disease diagnosis and patient treatment. Cytotechnologists are primarily responsible for the microscopic examination of cell samples for infectious organisms, viral agents and cell changes that suggest or are diagnostic of malignancy. Cytotechnologists detect clues to disease in the delicate patterns of the cytoplasm and nucleus of cells.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale average in high school chemistry, biology, mathematics and English
- Four years of mathematics (with algebra) and English
- Physics is recommended
- Minimum ACT score of 20 in each subsection or an SAT score of 500 or above in each area

WHY CHOOSE SLU

- More than 20 years of continuous accreditation and excellence in cytotechnology education
- One of only 31 cytotechnology programs nationally and the only cytotechnology program in the St. Louis region
- Undergraduate opportunities to conduct research and produce projects and papers acceptable for publication and presentation at professional conferences
- Opportunities to participate in professional conferences with SLU BLS faculty and fellow students
- State-of-the-art cytotechnology laboratory
- Pre-professional health curricular options are available to prepare graduates for health professional schools to include: medicine, physician assistant, dental, veterinary, pharmacy, etc
- Low student to faculty ratio
- Diversity of and guaranteed placement in clinical practicum training sites
- Pass rates consistently above the national average on the professional certification exams
- Job placement rate typically between 95-100 percent

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Students in the Department of Biomedical Laboratory Science have numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth through professional interactions. Students are welcome as student members of the St. Louis Society of Cytology, the American Society of Cytotechnology and the American Society of Pathology. Also, local clinical affiliates are frequently interested in placing cytotechnology students in lab assistant positions during their undergraduate career.
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
As a cytotechnologist, you will be qualified to work in conjunction with the pathologist to detect and diagnose diseases. Throughout the course of a typical workday, you will examine cell samples under the microscope for diagnosis of pre-malignant cell changes, microorganisms and the cell changes related to them.

While most cytotechnology graduates work in diagnostic testing, some choose positions in:
- Lab management
- Research
- Education
- Industry
Other graduates choose to go directly to graduate, medical or professional schools.

EARNINGS POTENTIAL
The median annual wage for medical laboratory scientists is $52,831 according to the American Society of Clinical Pathology.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
Students in the Department of Biomedical Laboratory Science are encouraged to join and participate in the laboratory professional organization of their choice. BLS faculty support the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, its state constituent society ASCLS-Missouri, and the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Students are welcome as student members of the St. Louis Society of Cytology, the American Society of Cytotechnology and the American Society of Pathology.

ACCREDITATION
The Cytotechnology Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, American Society for Cytopathology, Cytotechnology Review Committee, 400 West 9th Street, Suite 201, Wilmington, DE 19801.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Phone: 314-977-2570
Email: dchs@slu.edu
Website: BLS.SLU.EDU
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WHAT IS A CYTOTECHNOLOGIST?
Cytotechnologists work closely with pathologists, the medical doctors who diagnose the causes and nature of diseases. The information cytotechnologists provide is vital to the specialists responsible for making an accurate diagnosis and for developing an appropriate treatment plan.

When a patient's cells need to be studied, a sample is taken and sent to a cytotechnologist for testing. Cytotechnologists scrutinize the cells through a microscope, looking for subtle distinctions in the color, size and shape of cell structures. By noting differences, cytotechnologists identify which cell variations are normal and which might indicate disease.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Minimum admission criteria include:
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Math and science coursework GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale

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ACCREDITATION
The Department of Biomedical Laboratory Science has been continuously accredited since the graduation of its first class in 1933. The Department is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science, 5600 N. River Road, Suite 720, Rosemont, IL 60018. For more information, visit naacls.org.

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CYTOTECHNOLOGY-
POST BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

The Certificate in Cytotechnology is a one year full-time program designed to prepare students to sit for categorical certification and practice as a cytotechnologist.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Minimum admission criteria include:
- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Math and science coursework GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Minimum of 20 credit hours of college Biology and eight credit hours of college Chemistry is strongly recommended

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
As a cytotechnologist, you will be qualified to work in conjunction with the pathologist to detect and diagnose diseases. Throughout the course of a typical workday, you will examine cell samples under the microscope for diagnosis of pre-malignant cell changes, microorganisms and the cell changes related to them. Cytotechnologists also assist pathologists with microscopic cell adequacy assessments during fine needle aspiration biopsy procedures and perform sample triage and processing.

While most cytotechnology graduates work in diagnostic testing, some choose positions in:
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EARNINGS POTENTIAL
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JOB RESPONSIBILITIES
Throughout the course of a typical workday, you might:
- Examine specimens under the microscope
- Operate complex computerized instrumentation
- Use immunologic methods to prepare units of blood for transfusion
- Identify disease-causing microorganisms

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
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