

Phlebotomy

Certificate Program



Career Definition

Phlebotomists are trained to draw blood samples from people of all ages by venipuncture, skin puncture, or arterial collection, as needed for medical tests and blood donations. In the practice of phlebotomy, safety precautions must be taken to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases. Phlebotomists are instructed to adhere to strict policies and procedures accurately and efficiently while treating the patient with care.

Program Overview

This certificate prepares students for a position as a phlebotomist who can work in hospitals, commercial laboratories, clinics, blood banks and other health care settings.

Mission Statement

The Phlebotomy Program's mission is to educate and train entry-level competent and diverse phlebotomists with the mental, physical and ethical knowledge and skills for career entry in the laboratory profession. It is also the department's mission to produce lifelong learners and to support the Harper College mission by offering quality phlebotomy courses and faculty designed to facilitate active learning and foster the knowledge, critical thinking and life/work skills required for participation in the classroom and clinical settings. We believe that excellence in education must occur in an ethical climate of integrity and respect.

Program Coordinator Donna Oswald
doswald@harpercollege.edu
847.925.6922
Avanté, Room X246

Program 101 Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the healthcare delivery system.
2. Understand basic anatomy of body systems and anatomy terminology in order to relate major areas of the clinical laboratory to general pathological conditions.
3. Understand the importance of specimen collection in overall patient care.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of collection equipment, types of anticoagulants used, special precautions necessary and substances that can interfere in the clinical analysis of blood constituents.
5. Demonstrate proper techniques to perform venipuncture and capillary punctures.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of infection control and safety.
7. Understand requisitioning, specimen transport and specimen processing.
8. Understand established policies and procedures to assure quality specimens and safety.

Program 102 Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the healthcare delivery system and medical terminology
2. Demonstrate basic understanding of anatomy and physiology as it relates to body systems and the venipuncture procedure
3. Demonstrate understanding of the importance of specimen collection and specimen integrity in the delivery of patient care.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of collection equipment, various types of additives used, special precautions necessary, and instances that can interfere in clinical analysis of blood constituents.
5. Follow standard operating procedures to collect specimens.
6. Demonstrate understanding of requisitioning, specimen transport, and specimen processing.
7. Demonstrate understanding of quality assurances and quality control in phlebotomy.
8. Communicate (verbally and nonverbally) effectively and appropriately in the workplace.

Phlebotomy

Certificate Program, continued . . .

Opportunities for Employment

Employment of clinical laboratory workers is expected to grow by 14 percent through 2018, faster than the average for all occupations.

Although hospitals are expected to continue to be the major employer of clinical laboratory workers, employment is expected to grow rapidly in medical and diagnostic laboratories, physicians' offices and all other ambulatory health care services.

For a complete overview of all related positions and job market and salary trends, please consult the **Occupational Outlook Handbook**: www.bls.gov/OCO/

Opportunities for Advancement

With additional education and experience, phlebotomists can transition into other medical laboratory technical positions. Some may move into related fields, such as medical assistant. Additionally, individuals in a nursing or allied health career may cross-train to become proficient in phlebotomy through completion of this program.

Helpful Academic Skills or Experiences

Biology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, algebra, first aid, CPR, medical terminology courses in communications and introduction to health careers.

Professional Organization Web Sites

- National Healthcareer Association (NHA):
www.nhanow.com
- American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP):
www.ascp.org
- American Medical Technologists (AMT):
www.amt1.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Should I attend an information session?

A: Information sessions are held every other month. Attendance is recommended but not required. Discussion includes admission and health requirements, entrance examination, costs, financial aid and job market opportunities, as well as other topics. A schedule of sessions is listed online: <http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/page.cfm?p=6072>.

Q: Can the program be taken part time?

A: Medical Terminology (HSC 112) can be taken prior to acceptance and transferred into the program. Phlebotomy coursework must be taken as outlined and involves daytime clinical rotations. The program is academically challenging. For every hour in the classroom, two to three hours are needed outside of the classroom to study.

Q: In addition to academic requirements, are there other requirements for this program?

A: Yes. There are additional career program policies. Please review them prior to attending an information session: harpercollege.edu/page.cfm?p=4487

Q: Is certification as phlebotomist required?

A: No, it is not required, but it is strongly recommended. National certification is available through the following professional organizations:

- National Healthcareer Association (NHA)
- American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)
- American Medical Technologists (AMT)

Phlebotomy

Certificate Program

This eight credit-hour certificate program consists of lectures, student laboratories and clinical internship arranged in a local health care facility. This certificate is useful for a number of health care professionals interested in developing the skills and techniques involved in the collection of blood from patients or donors for diagnostic testing. In addition, ethical and legal responsibilities, effective communication skills and safe practice are studied. Phlebotomists are employed in hospitals, hospital laboratories, physician offices, clinics, blood banks, commercial laboratories, or similar facilities. Phlebotomy has become a fast-growing health occupation and is considered a profession with a standardized educational curriculum and accepted routes for national certification.

REQUIRED¹

HSC	112	Medical Terminology	2
PHB	101	Phlebotomy Principles and Practice	4
PHB	102	Phlebotomy Internship	2

¹ A grade of C or better in all HSC and PHB courses is required for all students.