

# Blood Bank Technology-Specialist



## Occupational Description

Specialists in blood bank technology perform both routine and specialized tests in blood center and transfusion services, using methodology that conforms to the *Standards for Blood Centers and Transfusion Services* of the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB).



## Job Description

Specialists in blood bank technology demonstrate a superior level of technical proficiency and problem-solving ability in such areas as (1) testing for blood group antigens, compatibility, and antibody identification; (2) investigating abnormalities such as hemolytic diseases of the newborn, hemolytic anemias, and adverse responses to transfusion; (3) supporting physicians in transfusion therapy for patients with coagulopathies (diseases affecting blood clotting), for example, or candidates for organ transplant; and (4) performing blood collection and processing, including selecting donors, drawing and typing blood, and performing viral marker tests to ensure the safety of the patient. Accordingly, supervision, management, and/or teaching make up a considerable part of the responsibilities of the specialist in blood bank technology educational program.



## Employment Characteristics

Specialists in blood bank technology work in many types of facilities, including community blood centers, private hospital blood banks, university-affiliated blood banks, transfusion services, and independent laboratories; they also may be part of a university faculty. Specialists may have some weekend and night duty, including emergency calls. Qualified specialists may advance to supervisory or administrative positions or move into teaching or research activities. The criteria for advancement in this field are experience, technical expertise, and completion of advanced education courses.

Entry-level salaries for specialists in blood banking average between \$32,000 and \$42,000, depending on previous experience.



## Educational Programs

**Length.** Most of the educational programs are approximately 12 months. Some programs offer a master's degree and take longer to complete.

**Prerequisites.** Applicants must be certified in medical technology by the Board of Registry and possess a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university. If applicants are not certified in medical technology by the Board of Registry, they must possess both a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a major in any of the biological or physical sciences and have work experience in a blood bank.

**Curriculum.** Each specific educational program defines its own criteria for measurement of student achievement, and the sequence of instruction is at the discretion of the medical director and the program director and/or educational coordinator of the program. The clinical material available in the educational program provides the student with a full range of experiences. The educational design and environment are conducive to the development of competence in all technical areas of the modern blood bank and transfusion services. The didactic experience covers all theoretical concepts of blood bank immunohematology.



## Inquiries

### Careers/Curriculum

American Society of Clinical Pathologists  
2100 W Harrison St  
Chicago, IL 60612-3798  
312 738-1336  
312 738-0101 Fax

### Certification/Registration

Board of Registry  
PO Box 12270  
Chicago, IL 60612-0270

### Program Accreditation

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs  
(CAAHEP) in collaboration with:

Committee on Accreditation of SBB Schools  
American Association of Blood Banks

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