

# Blood Bank Technology-Specialist

Specialists in blood bank technology (SBBs) perform both routine and specialized tests in blood donor centers, transfusion services, reference laboratories, and research facilities. SBBs use methodology that conforms to the Standards for Blood Centers and Transfusion Services of the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB).



## Career Description

Specialists in blood bank technology demonstrate a superior level of technical proficiency and problem-solving ability in such areas as

- Testing for blood group antigens, compatibility, and antibody identification
- Investigating abnormalities such as hemolytic diseases of the newborn, hemolytic anemias, and adverse reactions to transfusion
- Supporting physicians in transfusion therapy for patients with coagulopathies (diseases affecting blood clotting) or candidates for organ and cellular transplantation/therapy
- Performing blood collection and processing, including selecting donors, collecting blood, typing blood, molecular testing, and performing viral marker testing 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.



## Salary

Salaries for specialists in blood banking range from a national average of \$50,000 for bench techs and \$60,000 for supervisors to \$70,000 for managers. Salaries may be higher in certain regions of the country. Refer to Section IV, Table 5 of this Directory for more information, or see

[www.ama-assn.org/go/hpsalary](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/hpsalary).



## Educational Programs

**Length.** Most of the educational programs are approximately 12 months. Some programs offer a master's degree and are approximately 24 months.

**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. The didactic experience covers all theoretical concepts of blood bank immunohematology and transfusion medicine.



## Inquiries

### Careers/Curriculum

American Association of Blood Banks (AABB)  
8101 Glenbrook Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814-2749  
301 215-6482 301 951-3729 Fax

### Certification/Registration

Board of Registry  
PO Box 12277  
Chicago, IL 60612-0277  
312 738-1336  
E-mail: [bor@ascp.org](mailto:bor@ascp.org)

### 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 (AABB)  
8101 Glenbrook Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814-2749  
301 215-6482 Education Department  
301 907-6895 Fax  
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