

Phlebotomist

Laboratory tests play an important role in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases. Phlebotomists collect blood specimens for many of these tests. Phlebotomists practice safe blood collection and handling techniques that protect patients from injury, safeguard themselves from accidents, and produce high-quality specimens while demonstrating compassion for the patient.

Career Description

Phlebotomists collect, transport, handle, and process blood specimens for analysis; identify and select equipment, supplies, and additives used in blood collection; and understand factors that affect specimen collection procedures and test results. Recognizing the importance of specimen collection in the overall patient care system, phlebotomists adhere to infection control and safety policies and procedures. They monitor quality control within predetermined limits while demonstrating professional conduct, stress management, and communication skills with patients, peers, and other health care personnel as well as with the public.

Employment Characteristics

Many phlebotomists are employed in hospital laboratories. Others are employed in physicians' private laboratories and clinics; by the armed forces; by city, state, and federal health agencies; in industrial medical laboratories; in pharmaceutical houses; in numerous public and private research programs; and as faculty of approved programs preparing medical laboratory personnel.

Salary

Salaries vary depending on the employer and geographic location. According to the 2010 Wage and Vacancy Survey conducted by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), staff phlebotomists earn a median average wage of \$13.50 per hour or \$28,080 per year; average pay for supervisors is \$20.08 per hour or \$41,766 annually. The survey results were published in the March 2010 issue of *LabMedicine*, available at <http://labmed.ascpjournals.org/content/42/3/141>.

For more information, refer to www.ama-assn.org/go/hpsalary.

Educational Programs

Length. Approved programs contain at least 100 hours of clinical practicum and culminate in a postsecondary certificate.

Prerequisites. High school diploma or equivalent. The applicant must also meet the admission requirements of the sponsoring institution.

Curriculum. Phlebotomy programs are conducted in junior or community colleges, hospitals, medical laboratories, proprietary schools, and other equivalent postsecondary educational institutions. The curriculum includes didactic instruction and 100 hours of applied experiences, performance of a minimum of 100 successful unaided collections, and instruction in a variety of collection techniques, including vacuum collection devices, syringe, and capillary/skin-puncture methods.

Inquiries

Careers/Curriculum

American Medical Technologists
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www.amt1.com

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
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American Society for Clinical Pathology
33 West Monroe, Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 541-4999
E-mail: info@ascp.org
www.ascp.org

National Phlebotomy Association
1901 Brightseat Road
Landover, MD 20785

(301) 386-4200

E-mail: naltphle@aol.com

www.nationalphlebotomy.org

Certification/Registration

American Society for Clinical Pathology

Board of Certification

PO Box 12270

Chicago, IL 60612

(312) 738-1336, Ext 1341

E-mail: boc@ascp.org

www.ascp.org

American Association of Bioanalysts

Board of Registry

906 Olive Street, Suite 1200

St. Louis, MO 63101-1434

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Program Accreditation

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