

PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN

Health Sciences Division

A phlebotomist has a vital role in the healthcare system. Phlebotomists may work in free-standing laboratories, hospitals, clinics, physicians' offices, home care areas and blood donation centers. Additionally, phlebotomists may be cross-trained as patient care technicians. The average annual salary for a phlebotomist according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2019) is \$35,500.

A phlebotomy technician performs dermal and venipuncture techniques to collect blood specimens necessary in the diagnosis and treatment of a client. In addition to blood collection skills, successful specimen collection requires a phlebotomist to demonstrate competence, professionalism, and good communication and public relations skills. Moreover, the phlebotomist may perform point-of-care testing, obtain non-blood specimens for analysis, process and transport specimens, and maintain safety and quality control procedures. The aforementioned procedures, as well as anatomy and physiology, communication, legal, ethical and professional concepts related to the role of the phlebotomist will be studied in this program.

The phlebotomy certificate program consists of two classes. HLTSC 158 (Phlebotomy Basics) is a six-credit hour course that includes the theory of phlebotomy as well as laboratory skills experience in the classroom. HLTSC 159 (Phlebotomy II) is a four-credit hour course and includes theory, a computer component, a 120-hour clinical externship at a CMS-approved and accredited laboratory facility, and preparation to take the American College for Clinical Pathology national phlebotomy certification exam.

The requirements for a clinical externship include:

1. Passing HLTSC 158 (Phlebotomy Basics) with a grade of "C" or better.
2. HLTSC 158 (Phlebotomy Basics) and HLTSC 159 (Phlebotomy II) must be taken in consecutive semesters. Deviations from this sequence may only be made with appropriate approval of the instructor and division dean offering the course.
3. Immunizations and health examinations at the student's expense to ensure that the student can meet the technical standards of the program.
4. An active American Heart Association cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate for professional rescuer of infant, child and adult.
5. Students admitted to health science programs must consent to background/security checks including a criminal background check and drug screening. Students that require additional drug testing beyond initial screening and/or medical review may be responsible for associated costs. The cost for student background/security checks is covered through course lab fees. Certain criminal convictions may render a student ineligible to train at clinical sites which are necessary in order to successfully complete the program. Additionally, certain criminal convictions may render an individual ineligible to take the licensing/certification exam or to be licensed/certified in the State of Michigan. The college will review the results and determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether to deny admission to any individual based on the results of the criminal background check and drug screening.
6. Phlebotomy students are required to have professional liability and personal health insurance. The professional liability insurance

is provided by the college. Personal health insurance must be obtained by the student and maintained throughout both courses in the program, HLTSC 158 (Phlebotomy Basics) and HLTSC 159 (Phlebotomy II). Proof of insurance will be required prior to participating in any lab or clinical activity.

7. Students who wish to review or enhance phlebotomy skills may elect to take HLTSC 158 (Phlebotomy Basics) and not HLTSC 159 (Phlebotomy II), but a certificate will not be awarded.
8. Students must complete the necessary prerequisites before the beginning of a clinical rotation. Each student must pass both the lab and theory portion of HLTSC 158 (Phlebotomy Basics) with a "C" average (78 percent) or better to be eligible for a phlebotomy externship, HLTSC 159 (Phlebotomy II).
9. The student must complete both HLTSC 158 (Phlebotomy Basics) and HLTSC 159 (Phlebotomy II) with a "C" average or better in order to be awarded the phlebotomy technician certificate.
10. In addition to college rules, phlebotomy technician students are required to adhere to policies and procedures outlined in the Phlebotomy Technician Student Handbook provided in HLTSC 158 (Phlebotomy Basics). Students must be available to work 120 hours in consecutive days as part of the clinical externship which is part of HLTSC 159 (Phlebotomy II). Students must be aware that afternoon shifts cannot be guaranteed for the clinical externship. The clinical externship will be arranged by the phlebotomy instructor in a CMS-regulated laboratory facility. The clinical externship will be completed without monetary compensation.

Technical Standards

The purpose of the technical standards is to inform students choosing to enter into a health occupation program of the basic minimal technical standard requirements that must be met in order to complete all coursework objectives and student outcomes. The listed standards encompass what is minimally required to perform necessary tasks. This list is not exhaustive, and can be modified as the college deems necessary at any time. Students enrolled in a health occupation program at MCCC must provide care that is safe and effective. These technical standards apply to any student enrolling in any one of the health occupations programs. The student must be able to demonstrate sufficient cognitive, professional, motor (physical), sensory and other abilities, with or without accommodation, to meet program technical standards. Technical standard requirements are listed below. Examples of tasks associated with each requirement and standard are available for review by visiting the Health Sciences Division section of the MCCC website. Prospective students are encouraged to review the Technical Standards for Health Occupational Programs document in its entirety prior to enrolling in or applying to any health occupation course or program.

- **Critical Thinking and Cognitive Competencies:**
Sufficient critical thinking and cognitive abilities in classroom and clinical settings.
- **Professionalism:**
Interpersonal skills sufficient for professional interaction with a diverse population of individuals, families and groups.
- **Communication:**
Communication sufficient for professional interactions.

