

**Lorain County Community College
PHLEBOTOMY PROGRAM
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Program Description:

The Phlebotomy Program begins each Fall Semester. The Program accepts a maximum of 20 students into the LCCC campus section, as well as a maximum of 10 students into the Terra Community College video-conference section. The Program is nationally-approved by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, 5600 N. River Rd., Suite 720, Rosemont, IL 60018-5119 (www.naacls.org). It is a two-semester sequence of courses which prepares individuals to perform venous and micro skin punctures, obtaining blood specimens from patients for the purpose of testing and analysis. A phlebotomist generally works in a clinical laboratory under the direction of a laboratory supervisor. The role of a phlebotomist involves the preparation and maintenance of equipment for obtaining blood specimens, establishing a professional relationship with the patient, the selection of the blood collection site and method, the collection and care of the blood specimen, the documentation of the collection process into a computer, and clerical duties associated with record keeping of the laboratory tests.

The phlebotomy coursework includes an introduction to the profession of laboratory medicine, basic laboratory techniques, anatomy and physiology, first aid and safety for CPR certification, interpersonal communication and medical terminology. A clinical practicum of 150 hours provides each student with the real opportunity to perform blood collection procedures on patients in a clinical environment.

Upon completion of the Phlebotomy Program, a graduate will have earned a Certificate of Completion from LCCC. *Please be aware* that while this Certificate represents a significant level of achievement by our graduates, the Phlebotomy curriculum *does not* contain an adequate number of credit hours as required by the State of Ohio for Certificate recipients to participate in the LCCC commencement ceremony.

The Phlebotomy graduates are prepared to perform successfully on the ASCP Board of Registry or other national certifying examinations.

The graduate of the Program is prepared for employment in hospitals, clinics, private laboratories, and physician office laboratories.

What personal characteristics are needed to be successful as a Phlebotomist?

Students who are successful as phlebotomists are emotionally mature, academically able, highly motivated, self-disciplined and willing and able to devote a considerable amount of time to their Program. They have patience, enjoy working with and serving people, have good interpersonal relationship skills, are able to follow directions, work independently, and can solve problems.

In completion of the task requirements of the job, an entry level graduate into the profession of phlebotomy will be required to utilize all of her/his sensory skills and perceptions, as well as mental and intellectual skills in verbal and written communication, and mathematics. Certain physical characteristics of the profession will place physical demands on the phlebotomists.

Technical Standards or Essential Program Requirements

Listed below are the technical standards or essential program requirements for students in the Phlebotomy program. ***If you feel you cannot fully meet any of these technical standards, it is recommended that you meet with the Phlebotomy Program Director and the Office of Special Needs before enrolling in the Phlebotomy Program to discuss these requirements.***

Language Arts/Communication

Verbal

The student phlebotomist must:

1. speak clearly, concisely and employ correct vocabulary and grammar for communication with staff, physicians, other health care professionals, students, faculty, patients and the public.
2. give clear verbal instructions to patients prior to specimen collection.
3. effectively, confidentially, and sensitively converse with patients regarding laboratory tests.

Written

The student phlebotomist must:

1. write laboratory test results.
2. write legibly, with correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and appropriate medical terminology.

Sensory Attributes

Visual

The student phlebotomist must:

1. confirm patient's identity from their identification band.
2. be able to differentiate major colors associated with coded evacuated collection tubes, chemistry test strip reactions, etc..
3. have the ability to read laboratory requisitions/labels.
4. be able to read computer screens.
5. be able to read laboratory procedures, manuals, manufacturers' package inserts, chemical names, and other instructions.

Auditory

The student phlebotomist must be able to hear:

1. verbal responses from patients.
2. patient equipment and hospital alarm systems.
3. the telephone.

Touch

The student phlebotomist must:

1. have an unimpaired sense of touch and temperature discrimination. The student must be able to perform venipunctures and micro blood collection techniques, which require the tactile discrimination of veins and vein walls.

Body Mechanics and Physical Characteristics

The student phlebotomist must:

1. move freely and safely about the laboratory.
2. be able to perform procedures, which require the use of both hands simultaneously.
3. be able to perform procedures, which require delicate psychomotor skills.
4. be able to bend and lift up to 60 pounds.
5. be mobile to move readily from one location to another in such physical settings as the clinical laboratory, patient rooms, emergency room, elevators, and stairways.
6. reach laboratory benchtops and shelves, patients lying in hospital beds or patients seated in specimen collection chairs.

Intellectual and Mental/Emotional

Intellectual

The student phlebotomist must:

1. use basic algebra in solving mathematical problems.
2. recognize a problem exists and act appropriately.
3. differentiate between acceptable and unacceptable test specimens.

Mental/Emotional

The student phlebotomist:

1. will be drawing blood specimens in the emergency room and on critically ill patients.
2. must be able to handle and process all normal and abnormal body fluid specimens from patients, adapting to working with unpleasant biologicals.
3. must be able to interact with trauma patients, chronically ill patients, acutely ill patients, and terminally ill patients of all ages.
4. must provide service to all patients, regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, physical or mental handicap, physical condition or disease process.
5. be honest, compassionate, ethical, and responsible. The Phlebotomy student must be forthright about errors or uncertainty, must be able to critically evaluate his/her own performance, accept constructive criticism, and look for ways to improve.

What basic interests and academic skills are needed in the Phlebotomy Program?

Students who are successful in the Phlebotomy Program like a challenge, enjoy working with all different types of people, possess fine, detailed psychomotor skills, and are highly motivated.

What are the Phlebotomy Program's Admission Requirements?

Admission into the Phlebotomy Program requires a high school diploma or G.E.D.

What can I do if my academic skills are weak?

The College offers course work through the Division of Programs for Student Success and other divisions that can make up these deficiencies. Your counselor can recommend specific courses to fit your situation.

How long will it take before I can start the clinical portion of my Program?

The Connections Center can give you an estimate of when you will be able to start the Phlebotomy Program. We recommend that you do not make major changes in your life, such as quitting a job or moving, until you have been accepted into the Phlebotomy Program. When your name comes up, you will be offered a place according to the criteria on the Program Application.

The Phlebotomy Program faculty recommend that interested students who are waiting to enter the Phlebotomy Program begin to take some course prerequisites such as CLSC 111, BIOG 115, ALHN 110, HLED 153, etc., as prior completion of these courses enhances your ability to focus and succeed in your Phlebotomy courses once you are enrolled in the Program.

It is recommended that students complete the BIOG 115 course requirement no more than one (1) academic year prior to admission to the Program. Students must achieve at least a "C" letter grade in the CLSC 111, PHBT 111, and BIOG 115 courses to advance to the PHBT 121 course, the clinical portion of the Program.

When does the first Phlebotomy course begin?

Students begin the Phlebotomy Program during Fall semester, the only semester when the first Program course (PHBT 111) is offered. The PHBT 121 (Clinical Practicum) course is offered during the Spring semester only.

How will I know when a space is available in the Phlebotomy Program?

You will be notified by mail and there will be a deadline date by which you must respond.

Your letter of notice will give you detailed instructions on the registration process. Those who register early have the largest selection of class times. A physical examination is a requirement for entrance into the clinical portion of the Phlebotomy Program. The physical examination is to be completed within three (3) months prior to entrance into the PHBT 121 clinical course.

Can I re-enter the Phlebotomy Program if I withdraw?

Yes. Students who withdraw from the Phlebotomy Program without completing PHBT 111 should immediately file a new Program Application. You will then be offered a place when your name comes back up on the list. Proficiency students, re-Admission and transfers from other programs are re-admitted as places are available. Formal withdrawal procedures must be followed. The PHBT 111 course is only offered Fall semester.

What facilities are used for clinical training?

For students attending Lorain County Community College's campus, the Phlebotomy Program is currently using EMH Regional Medical Center in Elyria (including The Hospital for Orthopaedic and Specialty Services in Amherst), Community Health Partners (Lorain), Allen Medical Center (Oberlin), and Firelands Regional Medical Center (Sandusky). In addition, students attending class from the video-conferencing site at Terra Community College are assigned to clinical training at Memorial Hospital in Fremont and Magruder Hospital in Port Clinton.

The current Phlebotomy clinical affiliates allow us to place 15 students the first 8 weeks of Spring semester and 15 students the second 8 weeks of Spring semester. Registration for clinical seats is on a first-come, first-served basis during the College's regular registration period for Spring semester. Beginning on the first day of Spring semester registration, students may register on-line or at the Connections Center for any open seat at any clinical site for either the 1st or 2nd 8-week session. If all seats in the 1st 8-week session are filled, students are deferred into the open seats in the 2nd 8-week session. There are adequate clinical seats for all students to complete clinicals during Spring semester, either in the 1st or 2nd 8-week session.

Will I do all of my training at one hospital?

Students will ordinarily do all of their training at one hospital. However, some circumstances may require exceptions to this.

Is transportation provided to the hospital?

No. Students must provide their own transportation. Due to the different starting times at each clinical site, car pooling will be difficult.

Does the college have baby-sitting services?

Yes. Inquiries should be made at the Child Care Center, extension 4038.

How is the Phlebotomy Program set up?

- (1) CLSC 111 is an afternoon lecture held at the college one day a week.
- (2) PHBT 111 consists of a one hour lecture on Monday afternoon, and a three-hour college laboratory divided into two sections; one section is held on Thursday mornings and the other on Thursday evenings. Students select one of the laboratory sections when they register.

For students enrolled at the Terra Community College video-conferencing site, CLSC 111 and PHBT 111 lectures are transmitted by video to the Terra site in real time, while the class is taking place at LCCC. Students have both video and audio connection to the LCCC classroom and are able to interact with the instructor throughout the lecture. The PHBT 111 lab is also conducted simultaneously at the Terra site and is overseen onsite at Terra by a Laboratory Instructional Assistant, as well as being connected to a LCCC instructor.

- (3) The clinical training portion of the Program takes place in PHBT 121 during Spring Semester. PHBT 121 is an 8-week (150 hours) clinical experience supervised by the clinical staff. The hours and days of the week vary slightly depending on the clinical site. Early morning, afternoon, and early evening clinical hours are available. Schedules for the clinical rotations are distributed to students during Fall Semester so that they may begin to consider what site they might register for when Spring registration begins.

REMEMBER! Based on the number of clinical sites, the Program can place 15 students in PHBT 121 during the first 8 weeks of Spring semester and 15 students during the second 8 weeks of Spring semester. . Registration for clinical seats is on a first-come, first-served basis during the College's regular registration

period for Spring semester. Beginning on the first day of Spring semester registration, students may register on-line or at the Connections Center for any open seat at any clinical site for either the 1st or 2nd 8-week session. If all seats in the 1st 8-week session are filled, students are deferred into the open seats in the 2nd 8-week session. There are adequate clinical seats for all students to complete clinicals during Spring semester, either in the 1st or 2nd 8-week session.

Will I be able to schedule required Phlebotomy courses at times near or convenient to my other required courses?

All first semester courses are easily scheduled. Second semester support courses may have to be taken in the late afternoon or evening, depending on the clinical schedule of the student.

What suggestions do you have that would increase the likelihood of my being successful in the Phlebotomy Program?

First: Make up any deficiencies you have in the basic skills of reading, writing, and science. Your counselor is available to help you with these decisions.

Second: Take as many of the academic support courses as possible before entering the Program. If it is not possible to take all of the courses, the Program faculty recommend that you begin with BIOG 115, as this is the most difficult support course and you need a minimum grade of "C" in BIOG 115 to be permitted into Phlebotomy clinicals (PHBT 121).

It is recommended that students complete their BIOG 115 course no more than one academic year prior to admission to the clinical Program.

Remember, the academic support courses must be taken before as a prerequisite, or along with the Clinical Laboratory courses as a co-requisite, NOT afterward.

Third: It is permissible to take the CLSC 111 course before you are officially enrolled in the Phlebotomy Program. This is an introductory course to the profession of laboratory medicine. It will provide you with a better understanding of medical laboratory science technology and the type of work with which you will be associated.

Students who are still in high school and placing their name on the waiting list for the Phlebotomy Program should consider the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program as a way of taking a few academic courses at the college while they are still in high school.

If I am a current High School student, which courses should I consider first?

This should be discussed with your high school counselor and/or the college's Allied Health and Nursing counselor.

Are there courses that must be taken before other courses?

Yes. These courses are called prerequisites. Please refer to the Phlebotomy Program course curriculum sheet. Students who do not meet the prerequisites will not be permitted to continue without special permission from the Phlebotomy Program Director.

Remember, a "C" letter grade must be obtained in CLSC 111, PHBT 111, and BIOG 115 before advancing into the PHBT 121 Clinical Practicum course.

Can I work while I'm in the Phlebotomy Program?

A general College guideline indicates that students taking 12 or more hours (full time) should work no more than 15 to 20 hours per week.

How many hours of outside study will I need per week?

A general College guideline indicates that, on an average, students need two to three hours of outside study for each hour in class.

What is the approximate cost for the program?

The Program consists of 19 semester hours. You should consult the most recent College semester schedule to calculate the tuition based on the current per semester cost. There are also laboratory fees, an application fee for admission to LCCC, books and testing fees.

Is financial aid available for Phlebotomy students?

Financial aid is available to qualified students through the Financial Aid Office. Allied Health and Nursing students are urged to make inquiry to determine if they are eligible.

What additional sources of information is there available for the Lorain County Community College's Phlebotomy Program?

If you would like to talk with the Phlebotomy Program Director, call the College, 366-7194 or 1-800-995-LCCC ext. 7194.