

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

Phlebotomists are allied health professionals who draw blood for tests, transfusions, research, or blood donations. Phlebotomists collect blood samples by venipuncture from veins and skin puncture (finger and heel sticks). They must be able to collect quality samples from patients, to ensure quality laboratory results and conforming to current CDC and OSHA guidelines. Phlebotomists are able to enter into the workforce fairly quickly with the required training. They typically do the following:

- Draw blood from patients or blood donors
- Explain their work to help relax patients or donors who feel nervous about having blood drawn
- Verify a patient's or donor's identity
- Label the collected blood for testing or processing
- Label sterile containers for other samples, such as urine, and instruct patients on proper collection procedures
- Enter sample information into a database
- Assemble, maintain, and dispose of medical instruments such as needles, test tubes, and blood vials
- Keep work areas and equipment clean and sanitary

## **PAY**

\$43,660 median annual wage (\$20.99 per hour) as of May 2024

## **JOB OUTLOOK**

8% (Faster than average) 2023-2033

## **EDUCATION/TRAINING**

Phlebotomists typically enter the occupation with a certificate from a postsecondary phlebotomy program, but some qualify with a high school diploma and on-the-job training. Employers may prefer to hire candidates who have earned professional certification. No licensure is required at this time in the State of Ohio; however, the healthcare industry in the greater Cleveland area generally requires that phlebotomists are certified.

## **IMPORTANT SKILLS**

- **Analytical skills** to interpret data used in formulating accurate patient assessments, evaluations, and self-evaluation, to make decisions to sufficiently deliver patient care and to interpret laboratory results and quality assurance.
- **Communication skills** to clearly explain procedures and provide instruction to patients and to communicate effectively with laboratory personnel and other healthcare professionals.
- **Compassion.** Some patients are anxious about having blood drawn, so phlebotomists should be considerate in performing their duties.
- **Detail oriented** to ensure the correct amount of blood is drawn for the tests ordered, vials are carefully labeled, and records are carefully updated with information to avoid misplacing samples or injuring patients.
- **Dexterity** to use equipment efficiently to minimize patient discomfort. Must possess gross and fine manual dexterity sufficient to handle specimens or reagents, and perform analytical procedures requiring the use of small, delicate tools, equipment, and instruments.
- **Interpersonal skills** to work cooperatively with other members of the medical staff and communicate properly with patients including elderly people and children.
- **Physical stamina** to endure standing for long periods and being on the move throughout the workday. Must be able to move freely to observe patients, and perform patient emergency care.
- **Visual acuity** to observe changes in patient status and unsafe environmental conditions and to use microscopes to perform analyses requiring distinguishing structural details and staining characteristics of cells and microorganisms. Must have the ability to distinguish colors on procedural test strips and color charts.

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

### **ASHTABULA COUNTY TECHNICAL & CAREER CAMPUS** (*Ashtabula*)

Offers a 124-hour **Phlebotomy program** in the evenings. Includes a 40-hour externship.

<https://actc.axstudent.com/#/category/b3>

### **CLEVELAND CLINIC SCHOOL OF PHLEBOTOMY** (*Cleveland*)

The Cleveland Clinic **Phlebotomy program** lasts approximately 12 weeks. The program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

The Certificate of Completion allows a student to apply for phlebotomy certification from national certifying agencies. Passing a national certification exam is not required for a Certificate of Completion from the School of Phlebotomy.

[my.clevelandclinic.org/departments/pathology/medical-professionals/school-phlebotomy#overview-tab](http://my.clevelandclinic.org/departments/pathology/medical-professionals/school-phlebotomy#overview-tab)

### **CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY** (*Cleveland*)

**Phlebotomy Technician Program**, offering a two-to four-month online option.

<https://csuohio.edu2.com/product/989/phlebotomy-technician>

### **CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (*Metro Campus, Cleveland*)

**Laboratory Phlebotomy**—This program is available as a one semester short-term certificate plus front-end program prerequisites or as part of the two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree in Medical Assisting. Program starts are available in the fall and spring as well as an accelerated summer program.

After successful completion of Tri-C's program, students are eligible to sit for national certification examinations such as those given by: American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians (ASPT), or American Medical Technologists (AMT). Approved by National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) [www.naacls.org](http://www.naacls.org)

[www.tri-c.edu/phlebotomy](http://www.tri-c.edu/phlebotomy)

### **CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER** (*Brecksville*)

**Phlebotomy Fundamentals**—Students complete 60 hours of didactics classroom and hands-on laboratory experience, as well as 100 hours of a clinical internship rotation at a local healthcare facility.

[cvccworks.edu/adult-education/adult-education-programs/phlebotomy-fundamentals/](http://cvccworks.edu/adult-education/adult-education-programs/phlebotomy-fundamentals/)

### **LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (*Kirtland*)

**Phlebotomy Training & Certification**—A two-semester certificate in phlebotomy program (includes clinicals) with 16 credit hours. Upon program completion, students are eligible to take a national certification exam. Students who earn Lakeland's certificate in phlebotomy will then be eligible to sit for the credentialing exam through ASCP Board of Certification.

[www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/phlebotomy-departments](http://www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/phlebotomy-departments)

### **LAROCK HEALTHCARE ACADEMY** (*Middleburg Hts or Canton*)

**Phlebotomy Technician Plus+ Certificate Program** providing phlebotomy training in five to seven and a half weeks.

[larockacademy.com/phlebotomy-technician/](http://larockacademy.com/phlebotomy-technician/)

### **LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (*Elyria*)

**Phlebotomy Certificate Program** consisting of 19 semester hours. Begins in the fall. Nationally-accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

[www.lorainccc.edu/health/phlebotomy/](http://www.lorainccc.edu/health/phlebotomy/)

### **LORAIN COUNTY JVS ADULT CAREER CTR** (*Oberlin*)

**Phlebotomy Technician Program** that prepares students for the National Healthcare Association (NHA) certification exam. Program includes 100 hours of classroom instruction and 100 hours of a supervised externship.

[https://acc.loraincountyjvs.com/192990\\_2](https://acc.loraincountyjvs.com/192990_2)

### **NEW BRIDGE** (*Cleveland*)

A ten-week, 300-hour **Phlebotomy program** that includes a 160-hour externship experience as it prepares students to sit for the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Phlebotomy Technician (PBT) Certification

[newbridgecleveland.org/](http://newbridgecleveland.org/)

### **POLARIS CAREER CENTER** (*Middleburg Hts*)

**Certificate program** lasting 17 weeks / 252 training hours. Includes an unpaid externship.

[www.polaris.edu/o/pcc/page/phlebotomy](http://www.polaris.edu/o/pcc/page/phlebotomy)