

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 conform to current CDC and OSHA guidelines. Phlebotomists are able to enter 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

6% (Faster than average) 2024-2034

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 be certified.

IMPORTANT SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES

- Analytical skills to interpret data used to formulate accurate patient assessments, evaluations, and self-evaluations, 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 ordered tests, 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.

CERTIFICATE/TRAINING PROGRAMS

ASHTABULA COUNTY TECHNICAL & CAREER CAMPUS (Ashtabula)

Phlebotomy Program

A 124-hour evening program that includes a 40-hour externship.

actc.axstudent.com/#/category/b3

CLEVELAND CLINIC SCHOOL OF PHLEBOTOMY (Cleveland)

Phlebotomy Program

This program, which lasts approximately 14 weeks, 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

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY (Cleveland)

Phlebotomy Technician Program

Offering a two- to four-month online option.

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 a front-end program prerequisite. Program start dates are available in the fall and spring; an accelerated summer program is also offered. After successful program completion, students are eligible to sit for national certification examinations such as those offered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians (ASPT), or the American Medical Technologists (AMT). Approved by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). www.naacls.org

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/

LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Kirtland)

Phlebotomy Training & Certification

A two-semester phlebotomy certificate 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 the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification.

www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/phlebotomy-departments

LAROCK HEALTHCARE ACADEMY

(Middleburg Hts or Canton)

Phlebotomy Technician Plus+ Certificate

Program providing phlebotomy training in 7.5 weeks (58 clock hours).

larockacademy.com/phlebotomy-technician/

LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Elyria)

Phlebotomy Certificate Program

A 19-semester-hour program that begins in the fall. Nationally accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

www.lorainccc.edu/health/phlebotomy/

LORAIN COUNTY JVS ADULT CAREER CTR

(Oberlin)

Phlebotomy Technician Program

Prepares students for the National Healthcare Association (NHA) certification exam. Includes 100 hours of classroom instruction and 100 hours of a supervised externship.

acc.loraincountyjvs.com/192990_2#Phlebotomy

NEW BRIDGE (Cleveland)

Phlebotomy Technician Program

A ten-week, 300-hour program to prepare students to sit for the National Healthcareer Association (NHA) Phlebotomy Technician Certification. Includes a 160-hour externship experience.

newbridgecleveland.org/

POLARIS CAREER CENTER (Middleburg Hts)

Phlebotomy Certification

A 17-week/ 252-training-hour program that includes 100 hours with an unpaid externship.

www.polaris.edu/o/pcc/page/phlebotomy