



## What is a phlebotomist?

A phlebotomist is an important member of the medical laboratory team. Patient care is dependent on proper collection of specimens, as those specimens often determine diagnoses and treatment. In addition, the phlebotomist is often the patient's only contact with the laboratory department.

A phlebotomist collects blood samples from patients by various techniques and may be responsible for the collection of other non-blood specimens (e.g., throat culture specimens). Other duties may include preparing specimens for analysis, handling and transporting specimens, drug testing collection, and point of care testing.

## What type of skills are needed to excel in this field?

Phlebotomists need to possess an excellent attention to detail, be well-organized, punctual, mature and professional, and work well with others.

## What is the employment outlook for this career?

Healthcare is a fast-growing industry. Employment of laboratory technicians, including phlebotomists, is expected to grow 25 percent from 2016 to 2026. As the health care industry expands because of technological advances in

medicine, as well as the growth and aging of the population, there will be an increased need for all health care workers. (source: [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)).

## Where do phlebotomists work?

Phlebotomists work in hospitals, clinics, physician office laboratories, outpatient laboratories, and private companies (e.g., specimen collection for insurance agencies).

## What do phlebotomists earn?

Earnings for phlebotomists vary depending on experience, education, and skill level. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook, the median annual wage for phlebotomists was \$32,710 in May 2016 with the top 10 percent earning \$46,850 or more.

## Why should I come to HCC?

- Lower tuition fees compared to other area programs
- HCC's Middle States accreditation allows students to transfer credits to another educational institution
- Networking advantages: members of HCC's phlebotomy faculty are employed by the area's largest laboratory provider
- Your workplace learning advisor will work with you to meet externship requirements. Externship experiences provide contacts and can be extremely helpful in future job searches.
- An externship coordinator available to assist students in their clinical externship experience
- Required courses are included in other allied health programs, enabling you to work toward multiple programs at one time

There is a non-compensated externship experience where you work in a medical laboratory and demonstrate competency. You will be required to work a total of 120 uncompensated hours and perform a minimum of 125 successful venipunctures during the externship.

Prior to externship, students must provide appropriate health examination record(s) and all

required tests and immunizations, along with a urine drug screen and criminal background checks. Prior criminal records may prohibit you from program externship and employment opportunities.

For more information about HCC graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, visit [www.hagerstowncc.edu/phlebotomy](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/phlebotomy).

## Are there any disqualifying crimes that prevent individuals from working in the field?

Yes, individuals who commit felonies such as murder, assault and battery, sexual assault, prescription drug fraud, drug possession with an intent to distribute, etc., are ineligible for employment as a phlebotomist.

## Technical Standards

There are technical standards and skill requirements which students are expected to possess and demonstrate in order to be successful in this program. More information on these standards can be found online at [www.hagerstowncc.edu/health-sciences](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/health-sciences).

## Certificate

## Phlebotomy

This certificate program is designed to prepare students to serve as phlebotomists in medical office, laboratory, or hospital settings. Foundational courses in introduction to health science and medical terminology



are required. Students receive lecture as well as competency-based training in a variety of aspects of phlebotomy. There is also a non-compensated externship experience in which students work in an actual medical laboratory setting to demonstrate competency.

Externship sites may have their own requirements that students must meet prior to their externship experience. Your workplace learning advisor will work with you to meet externship requirements. Phlebotomy certificate students must maintain a grade of "C" or better in all required courses.

Students must also have a current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR certification. Successful graduates are eligible to sit for a national certification exam as a phlebotomy technician.\*



<b>Program Requirements</b>		<b>16 credits</b>
CSC 102	Introduction to Information Technology.....	3
MAP 102	Medical Terminology.....	3
MAP 110	Introduction to Health Science Professions and Technology.....	3
PLB 105	Phlebotomy .....	3
PLB 106	Phlebotomy Clinical Externship.....	3
STU 106	Professionalism in the Workplace.....	1

**Certificate Requirement ..... 16**

*\*In order to sit for a national certification exam as a phlebotomy technician, graduates must have proof of high school diploma or G.E.D.*

**Contact Information:**

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**Recommended Professional Organizations**

American Medical Technologists:  
[www.amt1.com](http://www.amt1.com)