

## Phlebotomist

### ■ Job Description

A phlebotomist is an individual who collects laboratory specimens by venipuncture or skin puncture to aid in the assessment of a client's medical condition. A phlebotomist has a basic understanding of human anatomy and physiology, the overall organization and operations of a laboratory, as well as in-depth knowledge of specimen collection tools and techniques. Phlebotomists are able to approach, communicate, and positively interact with the client and other peer professionals while performing duties that may also involve stressful situations. Strict adherence to safety and infection control procedures is required at all times. A phlebotomist is able to assess a patient's condition and know how to obtain the specimen required while keeping the client's best interest as the primary concern. This is done without direct supervision. Knowing when to consult a supervisor for assistance in determining appropriate action is required.

### ■ Job Settings

Hospital laboratories, clinics, large medical offices, and private commercial laboratories

### ■ Projected Need

Nationally and in Illinois, employment of clinical laboratory workers is expected to grow about as fast as average through 2010. The number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures that are performed each year is growing rapidly. In addition, new tests will be developed and added to the number of tests run. However, because of the increased use of automation, this increase in laboratory testing probably will not lead to an equivalent growth in employment.

In addition to the jobs created by growth, other job openings will occur as current workers retire or leave this occupation.

### ■ Salaries

According to a 2000 survey by the American Society for Clinical Pathology, phlebotomists received median pay rates ranging from an entry-level wage of \$8.10 to a maximum wage of \$11.80 per hour.

### ■ Related Careers

Medical laboratory technician, histologic technician, radiologic technologist (radiographer or X-ray technician), EEG or EKG technician, and respiratory therapist

### ■ Differences in Training

In the past, many phlebotomists were trained on the job. Now, short courses of six to twenty weeks are provided in hospitals, community colleges, and technical or vocational schools.

Phlebotomy training is offered at the following Illinois community colleges:

College of DuPage - Glen Ellyn  
College of Lake County - Grayslake  
Harper College - Palatine  
Harry S. Truman College - Chicago  
Illinois Central College - East Peoria  
Kennedy-King College - Chicago  
Malcolm X College - Chicago  
Moraine Valley Community College - Palos Hills  
Oakton Community College - Des Plaines  
Olive-Harvey College - Chicago  
Richard J. Daley College - Chicago  
South Suburban College - South Holland  
Southwestern Illinois College - Belleville  
Waubensee Community College - Sugar Grove  
Wilbur Wright College - Chicago

### ■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

*The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/>. You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.*

[Phlebotomy](#)

## ■ **Credentials**

The Board of Registry of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) offers certification as a phlebotomy technician, granting the designation PBT. Certification requires high school graduation (or equivalent), phlebotomy training and/or experience as a phlebotomy technician.

## ■ **Resources**

American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians  
P.O. Box 1831  
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