

CAREER OUTLOOK

Employment opportunities for phlebotomists are expected to be good as the demand for skilled laboratory personnel increases. The market is expected to increase 10%-20% over the next decade. The rapidly growing older population will be a major reason for this growth, since older people tend to have more medical problems that will require lab work. The fastest growth in this field is expected in independent medical laboratories because hospitals continue to send a greater amount of their lab work to outside facilities.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Society of Clinical Pathologists
2100 W Harrison Street
Chicago, IL 60612-3798
Phone: (312) 738-1336
Web: www.ascp.org

National Phlebotomy Association
1901 Brightseat Road
Landover, MD 20785
Phone: (301) 699-3846
Web: www.phlebotomy.org

Mississippi Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
The University of Mississippi Medical Center
2500 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39216-4505
Phone: (601) 984-6300
Web: <http://shrp.umc.edu>

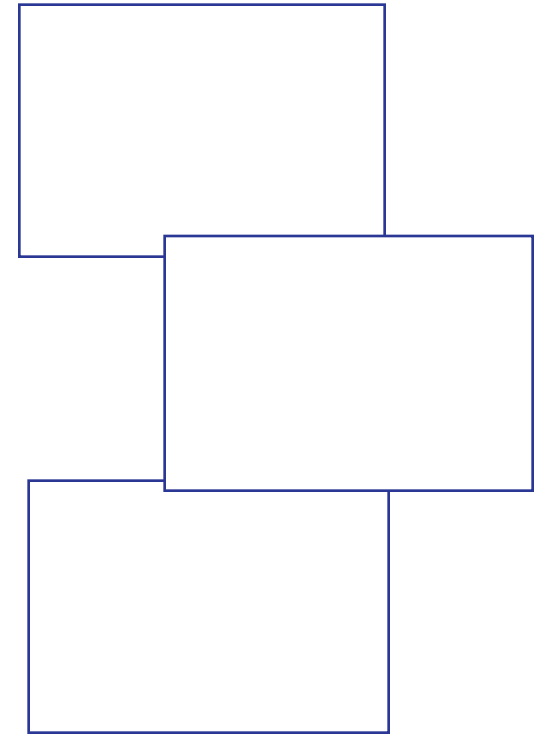


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POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

A phlebotomist is someone who is trained to collect blood sample in a clinical environment. They usually work under the supervision of the Medical Laboratory Scientist. After the phlebotomist collects the blood, they process and analyze the specimen with sophisticated laboratory equipment. Because they collect blood and are at risk of exposure to a variety of diseases, phlebotomists are trained in laboratory safety and must adhere to very strict policies and procedures. To be successful in this profession, an individual must enjoy working with people, work well under pressure, be attentive to detail, and have excellent manual dexterity. Another consideration that must be taken into account is how uneasy most people are around needles and blood. This requires a phlebotomist to calm patients and be an effective communicator and a good listener. Due to recent technological advances, a phlebotomist must also be able to use a computer as well as other high-tech devices. Certified Nurses Assistants and Medical Assistants are often selected to receive on-the-job training to become a phlebotomist.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Phlebotomists typically work in hospitals, commercial laboratories, physician's offices, blood banks, pharmaceutical firms, home health agencies, research institutions, and public health clinics.

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students interested in a career as a phlebotomist should concentrate on high school courses in algebra, biology, geometry, chemistry, computer skills, physics, health occupations/medical professions education, English, and physical education.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Phlebotomists complete either on-the-job training or a formal phlebotomy program, which typically last 4 to 8 months. On-the-job training is available when there is an employment need in a particular facility. Contact human resource departments in area hospitals to inquire about available on-the-job training. Certification as a phlebotomist is also available through several national credentialing agencies. Students interested in pharmacy should contact schools for information on admission and course of study.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

While a degree is not necessary to become a phlebotomist, these institutions offer degree programs in medical laboratory technology. Phlebotomy is included in the curriculum.

Northeast Mississippi
Community College
Cunningham Blvd.
Booneville, MS 38829
Phone: (601) 720-7388

Meridian Community
College
910 Hwy 19 N
Meridian, MS 39307
Phone: (601) 484-8755

Mississippi Gulf Coast
Community College
2300 Hwy 90
PO Box 100
Gautier, MS 39553
Phone: (228) 497-7709

Mississippi Delta
Community College
PO Box 668
Moorhead, MS 38761
Phone: (662) 246-6500

Pearl River Community
College-Poplarville
5448 US Hwy 49 S
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Phone: (601) 554-5523

Copiah - Lincoln
Community College
PO Box 457
Wesson, MS 39191-0457
Phone: (601) 643-8391

Hinds Community
College
1750 Chadwick Dr
Jackson, MS 39204-3402
Phone: (601) 371-3515

Healthcare Institute of
Jackson
Certificate Programs
405 Briarwood Drive,
Suite 110
Jackson, MS 39206
Phone: (601) 956-3940
hlthcarein@aol.com

SALARY RANGE

Average Annual Salary--\$20,200
Salary Range--\$17,700--\$22,200