

# Phlebotomists

## **Professional Activities**

Phlebotomists draw blood for tests, transfusions, research, or blood donations. Some of them explain their work to patients and provide assistance if patients have adverse reactions after their blood is drawn. In medical and diagnostic laboratories, patient interaction is often only with the phlebotomist. Because all blood samples look the same, phlebotomists must identify and label the sample they have drawn and enter it into a database. Some phlebotomists draw blood for other purposes, such as at blood drives where people donate blood. In order to avoid causing infection or other complications, phlebotomists must keep their work area and instruments clean and sanitary.

Phlebotomists typically do the following:

- Draw blood from patients and blood donors
- Talk with patients and donors so they are less nervous about having their blood drawn
- Verify a patient or donor's identity to ensure proper labeling
- Label the drawn blood for testing or processing
- Enter patient information into an onsite database
- Assemble and maintain medical instruments such as needles, test tubes, and blood vials

## **Educational Requirements**

Phlebotomists typically enter the occupation with a postsecondary non-degree award from a phlebotomy program. Programs for phlebotomy are available from community colleges, vocational schools, or technical schools. These programs usually take less than 1 year to complete and lead to a certificate or diploma. Programs have classroom and laboratory portions and include instruction in anatomy, physiology, and medical terminology. Some phlebotomists may enter the occupation with a high school diploma and are trained to be a phlebotomist on the job.

## **Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations**

Almost all employers prefer to hire phlebotomists who have earned professional certification. Several organizations offer certifications for phlebotomists. The National Center for Competency Testing, the American Society for Clinical Pathology, and the American Medical Technologists (AMT) offer Phlebotomy Technician certifications. Certification testing usually includes an exam and may include practical components, such as drawing blood. Requirements vary by certifying organization. Phlebotomists must be certified in California, Louisiana, and Nevada.

## **Academic Programs**

[College Lake County](#)

[Elgin Community College](#)

[Harper College](#)

[Illinois Valley Community College](#)

[Malcolm X College](#)

[Moraine Valley Community College](#)

[Oakton Community College](#)

[Richland Community College](#)

[South Suburban College](#)

[Southwestern Illinois College](#)

[Waubensee Community College](#)

## **Employment/Salary Outlook**

Hospitals, diagnostic laboratories, blood donor centers, and other locations will need phlebotomists to perform blood work. Demand for phlebotomists will remain high as doctors and other healthcare professionals require blood work for analysis and diagnoses.

### State and National Wages

Location	Pay Period	2021		
		Low	Median	High
United States	Hourly	\$13.94	\$17.97	\$23.31
	Annual	\$28,990	\$37,380	\$48,490
Illinois	Hourly	\$14.42	\$18.19	\$23.16
	Annual	\$29,990	\$37,830	\$48,160

### State and National Trends

United States	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings <sup>1</sup>
	2021	2031		
Phlebotomists	135,500	149,400	10%	21,500
Illinois	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings <sup>1</sup>
	2020	2030		
Phlebotomists	5,250	6,120	+17%	750

<sup>1</sup>Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement.

### Professional Organizations

American Society for Clinical Pathology ([ascp.org](http://ascp.org))

American Medical Technologists ([americanmedtech.org](http://americanmedtech.org))

Center for Phlebotomy Education ([phlebotomy.com](http://phlebotomy.com))

### References

*Occupational Outlook Handbook*, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics  
(<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/phlebotomists.htm>)

O\*NET OnLine (<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/31-9097.00>)

Last Modified: November 11, 2022