

CLINICAL

Laboratory Sciences



Bismarck State College offers two programs in Clinical Laboratory Sciences: Medical Laboratory Technician and Phlebotomy Technician.

These nationally accredited programs are highly regarded by the medical community, as the programs and students consistently rank very high nationally based on exam scores for national board certification. In the 30-year history of the MLT program, BSC students had a 96% success rate at passing the national certification exam on the first try.

The United States is currently experiencing a critical shortage of clinical laboratory professionals. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, nearly 14,000 new graduates will be needed every year between now and 2016 and higher education institutions are producing fewer than 5,000 each year.

Demand for phlebotomy technicians also is increasing. Clinical laboratories in many states now require phlebotomists to possess national board certification. Reasons include the increasing numbers of diagnostic tests available to physicians, the growth in technology, and recent changes in the scope of phlebotomy practice.

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Clinical laboratory professionals enjoy science, technology, and the challenges of problem solving. While they spend less time with patients than physicians and nurses, they have the satisfaction of knowing they are helping others and saving lives as a vital part of the health care team.

BSC students receive theoretical instruction and practical clinical experience. The curriculum at BSC allows students to begin employment after completing the two-year program, or to transfer into a four-year program in Medical Technology. Those who successfully complete the requirements of the two-year program earn an Associate in Science degree and are eligible to write a national board examination to become certified as an MLT.

Students who choose to transfer will be prepared for the final two years of study toward a bachelor's degree as a medical technologist.

BSC developed this program in cooperation with Medcenter One Health Systems. It is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

EMPLOYMENT

Medical laboratory technicians are trained in the general disciplines of laboratory medicine, including hematology, clinical chemistry, immunology, microbiology, blood banking and transfusion medicine. The analytical procedures they perform provide the basis for 75-80% of all medical decisions made by physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

MLTs are also well qualified to work outside the health care arena. Their analytical, scientific and technical skills are valuable and desired assets in forensic (crime) labs, medical research, industrial, pharmaceutical, veterinary and public health labs. Still others choose sales and marketing, consulting, product research and development, or education.

APTITUDE/PREPARATION

Students should have an interest and aptitude in science, math and critical thinking, be skilled at detail work and have good communication skills. This is a demanding program that requires discipline, self-motivation, and ability to work independently.

HEALTH SCIENCES CAREER CLUSTER:

Suggested high school courses:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Algebra
- Communications
- Computers
- Psychology

Fourteen students and four alternates are accepted in the program each fall. Application deadline is May 1. Selection depends on academic preparation and date

of application. An interview and tour of Medcenter One Health Systems laboratory are required before acceptance into the program.

PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN

Phlebotomy is the skill of drawing blood for diagnostic purposes. BSC's program will provide students with the most comprehensive training possible to keep up with the demands of a rapidly changing health care environment. Tasks of phlebotomists go beyond drawing blood, however. They are also required to process specimens, use computers to enter patient demographics, perform bedside test procedures and send reports in some facilities.

Students spend the first semester on campus and complete a one-month internship at a clinical affiliate laboratory in Bismarck, Mandan or Dickinson the next semester. Students receive individualized attention in small clinical classes on the campus and receive one-on-one training during the internship.

Students who successfully complete the two-semester program earn a Program Certificate from BSC and are qualified to take a national certification exam.

The program is designed to meet the requirements of the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science for receiving and maintaining approval as a Phlebotomy Technician Program.

EMPLOYMENT

Phlebotomy technicians (PBTs) are employed in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, blood banks and plasma centers.

APTITUDE/PREPARATION

Students interested in this discipline should enjoy interacting with people, be good at detail work and have good communication skills. This is a demanding program. Successful students are those who are highly disciplined, self-motivated, self-reliant and capable of working independently.

LIMITED ENROLLMENT

Five students are accepted per semester. Application deadline is May 1 for the fall semester and Oct. 1 for the spring semester. Selection depends on early date of application and academic preparation.

FACULTY

For more information on both programs, contact Angela Uhlich, medical laboratory technology education director, at 701-323-5482 or 224-5669 or Angela.Uhlich@bsc.nodak.edu or Cathy Janikowski, assistant professor of medical laboratory technology, at 701-224-2485 or Catherine.Janikowski@bsc.nodak.edu.

HOW TO REACH US

BSC Web site: bismarckstate.edu

Application information: 1-800-445-5073 or 1-701-224-5429 or bismarckstate.edu/prospectivestudents/application.asp

Financial Aid: 1-701-224-5494 or bismarckstate.edu/student/finaid

BSC Foundation Scholarships: 1-701-224-2486 or bismarckstate.edu/scholarships