FAQs for Clinical Laboratory Technician

1. What do CLTs do?
   a. Clinical Laboratory Technicians are also known as Medical Laboratory Technicians. Clinical laboratory testing plays a crucial role in detection, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. Clinical Laboratory Technicians perform significant diagnostic tests, draw blood, and examine and analyze specimen samples. They look for bacteria, parasites, and other microorganisms; analyze the chemical content of fluids; match blood for transfusions; and test for therapeutic drug levels in patient blood. CLTs use microscopes, cell counters, and other automated laboratory instruments. Technicians calculate and document laboratory statistics. Critical thinking skills are of highest importance; you are working with bloodborne pathogens.

2. How do I know what classes to take in the CLT program?
   a. You should consult with your advisor and follow the program requirements in the recommended sequence for full-time students in the current student catalog. All developmental courses and the prerequisite course must be completed first.

   b. Clinical Laboratory Technician classes (CLT) are not taken on a part-time basis. These classes need to be taken consecutively to build on the information presented in the previous semester. You must achieve a grade of C to continue in the program. Be sure to check the grading scale in the syllabus.

   c. You must be accepted into the program to be eligible for the actual CLT classes.

3. Do I really need to send my high school transcript?
   a. Yes! The final OFFICIAL high school transcript is a mandatory requirement for the admission procedure. Do not assume for any reason that the college has your transcript...check with Admissions. The high school transcript is still required even if a student has a bachelor’s degree. It is always best to check with the Office of Admissions to confirm that your transcript is on file. To check the status of your high school transcript you can contact Admissions at 724-925-4077.

4. When do the CLT classes run? (Sequence indicated in your student catalog; times vary)
   Many of the actual CLT classes are formatted as online lecture and daylong lab sessions.
5. CLTs also perform phlebotomy. Do we practice on real people and do I have to volunteer?
   a. Most CLTs are proficient in phlebotomy. The phlebotomy class in invasive skills starts with practice arms and computer simulation. Once the skills are demonstrated, then they are perfected in the classroom with each student being both the tech and the patient. All students participate in this practice.

6. How do I know what health records are needed?
   a. If you are accepted into the program, you will receive notice of the orientation meeting. The program director will give you the web site to download your health forms and explain the requirements. Those forms will clearly indicate the deadline for submission of that information. You will have drug tests, fingerprinting, Act 33/34 clearance, physical exam, any immunizations that need to be updated (Tdap, HBV, two-step PPD) CPR/First Aid class, and insurance before starting the program. All results must be received before the start of the program.

   b. You must have completed your HBV injection series before your second semester when you enter the first CLT practicum experience.

   c. The completion of health records, immunizations, purchase of uniforms, and textbooks is a large amount of money at the start of the program. Be sure to consider day care and transportation arrangements also.

7. Do I need a uniform?
   a. Yes, during your orientation you will receive a dress code and uniform requirements. There are rigid guidelines for professional appearance and attendance.

8. What if I cannot attend class during the scheduled days?
   a. Attendance, appearance, attitude, and class participation are part of the grading scale for CLT classes. You will lose those points if you are not in class. If you have a written excuse and it is accepted, you will receive partial credit. Laboratory attendance is mandatory.

9. Are CLT classes offered in other counties (Green, Indiana, Fayette)?
   a. CLT lectures are usually online but the lectures and labs are not available in other counties yet.

10. CLT practicum classes are conducted in local hospitals and are not available for students in the evening.
    a. The practicum experience is an unpaid experience.

11. When I complete the program, where can I work?
a. Usually CLTs (Clinical Laboratory Technicians) work in hospital labs, freestanding surgical sites, or Blood Banks. Some private laboratories, clinics, government agencies, industry, private research laboratories, and pharmaceutical companies also hire CLTs.

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