FAQs for Phlebotomy/Specimen Processing Programs

1. What is the difference between credit and continuing education classes?
   a. The difference is the requirement of certain agencies paying for classes. The classes are presented together; one group will receive some Westmoreland County Community College credits that can transfer. The continuing education students will have a certificate indicating cont. ed. credit.
   b. Both groups receive a certificate; one will indicate Westmoreland County Community College and one will indicate Westmoreland County Community College continuing education.

2. How many days do I have to attend class?
   a. Phlebotomy only students will attend class on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 am-1:30 pm. for 8 weeks. The remaining weeks are the practicum experience daily for 7 weeks.
   b. Phlebotomy/Specimen Processing students will also have class on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 am-3 pm. in addition to the Mon-Wed classes for phlebotomy. These classes also run for 8 weeks and complete the semester with the daily practicum experience.

3. When I complete the program, where can I work?
   a. Hospitals, clinics, freestanding laboratories and blood draw facilities, some dialysis units, and some larger physician offices are a few examples of phlebotomy employment. Specimen processing technicians are usually employed by hospitals.

4. How do I know what classes to take in the program?
   a. Your prerequisite is ALH-122 (Medical Terminology), the other classes follow in sequence. Your office technology class may be scheduled before or during the classes. It is necessary to have data entry skills to complete the phlebotomy classes. This program is one semester.
5. Do we practice on real people and do I have to volunteer?
   a. The phlebotomy experience starts with practice arms, etc. Once the skills are demonstrated, they are perfected in the classroom with each student being both the phlebotomist and the patient. Students are limited to receiving two phlebotomies each lab session per student. All students participate in this practice.

6. How do I know what health records are needed?
   a. If you are accepted into either program, you will receive notice of the mandatory orientation meeting. The program director will distribute and explain the required health forms. Those forms will clearly indicate the deadline for submission of that information.

7. What costs can I anticipate for this program?
   a. During your orientation, you will receive a dress code and uniform requirements. Along with the uniforms and shoes, you will need to budget for a physical exam, CPR/BLS certification, all blood work, immunizations, and drug screens required, insurance, criminal, child abuse, and fingerprinting screening, textbooks, and transportation.

8. What if I cannot attend class during the scheduled days?
   a. This is a single semester program and daily attendance is mandatory. Attendance, appearance, attitude, and class participation are part of the grading scale for phlebotomy classes.

9. Do I have to make arrangements for my own practicum sites?
   a. No, Westmoreland County Community College will place you in an approved site that has a contract with the college. Your progress is monitored by the program director.

10. Is it necessary to take a certification exam?
    a. Pennsylvania does not require phlebotomists to be certified at this time.

11. 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. You do not want to have this missing and not be eligible to take the NLN examination. To check the status of your high school transcript you can contact Admissions at 724-925-4077.