Specialist in Blood Banking Technology Program

This is a one year distance learning program in advanced Blood Bank Technology. The OneBlood SBB Certification Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the AABB’s (formerly American Association of Blood Banks) Committee on Accreditation of Specialist in Blood Banking Technology Schools (AABB/CoA).

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
1361 Park Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-210-2350
www.caahep.org

Upon successful completion of the program, the student applies to the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) to sit for the national examination to obtain SBB certification. This is a certificate based program, no college credit is given.

SBB Career Opportunities

The Specialist in Blood Bank (SBB) plays a unique role in the modern blood bank and transfusion service. Skilled in all blood bank operations, the SBB may follow virtually any career path within the profession. They assume positions including technical directors, laboratory supervisors and managers, and positions in education, quality assurance and research.

Educational Requirements of Program

The applicant must have either:
- A baccalaureate degree and 2 years clinical blood bank or transfusion service experience or
- An MT (ASCP) or MLS (ASCP) certification with a baccalaureate degree and 1 year clinical blood bank or transfusion service experience.

Program Information

Application Deadline: October 1st
Fees: $3000. Fees are nonrefundable. One half of amount is due by January 31st. The remainder is due the week before class starts.
Duration: 12 months
Start date: March
Positions accepted: 5 (approximate)
On-Site Educational training: 3 sessions (total 11 days).
Passing rate for Registry exam: 96%

On site visits to OneBlood

Students must come to OneBlood in St. Petersburg three times during the school year. The student is responsible for all costs incurred. This includes hotel, food and transportation. The first visit is the first week of class. This is an opportunity to discuss the program and its requirements, learn how to download lectures, practice test taking, and receive lectures from OneBlood staff. It provides a chance to meet each other and bond as a class. The second visit is in the fall for a week. HLA and HPC rotations are scheduled as well as
additional lectures. The last visit is for graduation. It corresponds with the first day of the next SBB class. This is a time for the graduating students to meet the new students and impart any wisdom they have learned.

Description of Program

- This program provides training in all areas of blood banking including basic and advanced serological and molecular techniques, blood donation and product manufacturing, apheresis, viral disease testing, genetics, transfusion medicine practices, component therapy, quality systems and process control, HLA and transplantation, education and research, management, blood bank administration and other relevant topics.
- Most lectures and all tests are presented on line. There are 12 exams, a midterm and final. Students have a two week window in which to take the tests. They must have access to a high speed internet connection for test taking.
- Rotations - These take place in a transfusion service, blood center and reference lab. There are 12 rotations to be performed:
  1. Transfusion Service- Compatibility testing, Management, Medical Director
  2. Blood Center- Donor Room, Apheresis, Mobile Drive, QA, Donor blood testing (includes EIA and NAT), Component Preparation
  3. Reference Lab
  4. HPC and HLA performed during visits to OneBlood.

  The amount of time varies dependent on the student’s previous experience. Clinical experience will be documented on checklists completed by supervisors at the various sites. It is the student’s responsibility to attain agreements with the necessary sites. It is also the student’s responsibility to retain a mentor (must be SBB or Medical Director) who will help answer questions and act as a liaison with the Education Coordinator throughout the year.
- A research or evaluation project is required of each student.
- Unknowns will be sent at midterm for antibody identification.
- Case history problems will be emailed throughout the year.
- A PowerPoint presentation will be developed and performed by each student at the student’s institution for continuing education purposes.

To Apply

- Contact the Education Coordinator by email or phone. Contact information below. This step is to insure that the candidate has the necessary qualifications for the program.
- Download and complete the application from our website. Mail completed application to Education Coordinator at address below by deadline.
- Request all undergraduate and post graduate college transcripts be sent to the Education Coordinator. Transcripts from colleges outside the US need to be evaluated and submitted by October 1st. One example of an organization providing this service is: International Education Research Foundation, PO Box 24679, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

Admissions Process

It is the policy of OneBlood not to discriminate and to provide equal opportunity for admissions to all qualified individuals regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, or veteran status. Admission is based on a point system. Points are assigned for the application, references, experience, and GPA on college transcripts. The 10-12 candidates with the highest number of points will participate in a 10 minute telephone interview with the SBB Advisory Committee (12 members, most are SBBs, some are former students). The five applicants with the highest score will comprise the next student class.
Withdrawal Process

Students are expected to maintain an average of 75% on exams. If after three exams, the average is less than 75%, the student is placed on probation. If after five exams or anytime thereafter the average is less than 75%, the student may be withdrawn from the program.

Students are expected to meet deadlines for checklists, rotations, research project, PowerPoint presentation and other material as assigned. There are three deadlines posted during the year. If the material due is not submitted by these dates, the student may be released from the program.

Once a student voluntarily or involuntarily withdraws, s/he may apply for enrollment in a future program but s/he must go through the application process the same as any first time student. No tuition is refunded.

Before a student is withdrawn from the program, s/he may appeal in writing to the SBB Advisory Committee.

Need to Know

This is a TOUGH course. You need to be a self-starter and very disciplined. You should expect to spend at least two hours a day studying and at least half of your weekend. Allow 11 days for the instruction at OneBlood. Allow at least 15-20 days for rotations (depending on previous experience). Be ready to devote a year of your life to attain those SBB letters behind your name. There is a great deal of information to cover and much of it is not learned on the bench. Students are encouraged to stay in touch after our week together, to share ideas and offer support. Being an online program does not mean you are in this alone. Classes where students have become one cohesive study group have fared very well and remained close years later. This is a team effort.

This is an intense and academically challenging course that demands significant time and effort. This program is not only about education but also accountability and time management. You must be a master at managing your time – at work, at home and in this program. You must meet deadlines. We have high expectations of our students and we take great pride in our graduates. If you think you have the required drive and dedication, this experience will provide an excellent opportunity for you to grow and be able to bring the leadership and knowledge home to those in your workplace.

Marjorie W. Doty, MT(ASCP)SBB
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