

Phlebotomy Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the phlebotomy course offered?

The phlebotomy course is offered on the San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles campuses. Check the current class schedule for specific dates and times. (? [link to class schedule?](#))

When does the class meet?

Always check the current class schedule for class meeting information.

The phlebotomy training program is offered in the fall and spring semesters.

San Luis Obispo campus: meets Tuesday from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM for the first 9 or 10 weeks of the semester. There are also 2 scheduled on campus meetings during the clinical externship (see current class schedule for dates and times).

Paso Robles campus: meets Monday and Wednesday from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. There are also 2 scheduled on campus meetings during the clinical externship (see current class schedule for dates and times).

As required by the California State Department of Health, Laboratory Field Services (DHS, LFS) all phlebotomy training programs must meet the required hours and approved curriculum for the type of course being taught.

Cuesta College is approved for and offers a full course meaning that 40.5 hours of didactic: class room theory and skill development, and 40.5 hours of clinical: student externship in an approved clinical laboratory setting where the required minimum of 50 successful venipunctures, 10 successful skin punctures and observation of 2 arterial blood gases must be completed.

What does “4.5 weekly hours by arrangement” mean in the class schedule?

This is the clinical externship portion of the course. Each student must complete a minimum of 40.5 hours in an approved clinical laboratory. The approved laboratories for the Cuesta College phlebotomy training program are **found** in the local hospitals and community laboratories within San Luis Obispo county. Specific clinical sites for each semester will be discussed during the first class meeting.

Arrangements for scheduling the clinical externship hours are coordinated with the course instructor, student, and laboratory manager each semester. Students must have adequate availability to complete this requirement. Weekend and evening hours are usually not available at the laboratories to meet this requirement.

Students are required to be available for early AM hours, usually between 4:00 – 5:00 AM to meet the requirement of observing 2 arterial blood gases. This requirement will be discussed at the first class meeting.

The best clinical experience is achieved when the student's schedule allows them to be in the clinical externship a minimum of 4 hours per day several times within the same week. Students frequently are able to arrange schedules that allow them to complete the externship requirements within one or two weeks.

Students who only have Tuesdays to complete this portion of the course may have difficulty meeting the clinical externship requirement of the course. It is encouraged that students carefully consider their commitments for the semester in which they wish to enroll in the phlebotomy program such as other course requirements, family, childcare, and employment prior to registering for the course.

How do I register for the phlebotomy program?

New students will need to complete an admission application prior to registering for the course. The application process may be done online at www.cccapply.org (link)

Once the application process is completed registration for the phlebotomy course may be done based upon the priority registration status assigned.

Continuing students may register for the course based upon their priority registration status.

Is there a way for me to improve my priority registration status?

Students who are over 25 years old and have been out of school for 5 or more years may contact the counseling department at <http://academic.cuesta.edu/counsel> (link) and follow the links to the Reentry Program.

The class is full, what should I do?

Attend the first class meeting. The instructor will drop students who do not appear within the first hour and begin the add process at that time.

Is there a priority wait list for students wishing to add?

No. Students wishing to add the class are encouraged to attend the first class meeting.

What is required at the first class meeting?

Students who are registered for the course are expected to arrive in class with the course syllabus, text book, and receipt for the required skills lab equipment. The assignments for the first class meeting, found in the course syllabus, are expected to be completed prior to the first class meeting.

Students who are hoping to add the course should attend the first class meeting prior to purchasing the course text and syllabus.

What are the course policies?

The course policies are included in the course syllabus and discussed at the first class meeting. Registered students are expected to have read the course policies prior to the first class meeting. Those policies that may be helpful in making a decision whether or not to register for the phlebotomy course include:

Attendance:

The course hours are regulated by the State of California Department of Health, Laboratory Field Services. There are no excused absences and make-up is not guaranteed. Regular and prompt attendance is required. Three times late to class equals one absence. The State regulations require that every minute of the approved course be completed by each student in order to successfully complete the program.

Grading:

A minimum of 70% on each assignment and quiz is required to progress within the course. Additionally, a minimum of 70% is required on the final examination to successfully complete the didactic portion of the course and advance to the clinical externship. For example, a student who has achieved an “A” on all course work, but receives less than 70% on the final examination, will not complete the course and will receive a course grade of “F”.

Late assignments will receive a maximum of 70% minus deductions. This means that a late assignment that receives less than 70% will prevent the student from advancing in the course.

The final course grade is based upon the successful completion of the didactic, skill competencies, and clinical externship requirements. Failure to successfully complete any one of these course components will result in a grade of “F”.

Skills competencies:

Competency in the skills of hand washing, gloving including nonsterile and sterile procedures, sharps management and disposal, skin puncture (finger stick and heel stick), and venipuncture including use of the vacutainer, straight needle and

butterfly needle must be demonstrated with 100% accuracy in order to progress in the course.

The skill competency checklists are included in the course syllabus. Skills are mastered through completion of the course reading assignments, instructor demonstration and return demonstration by the student.

Cuesta College offers a state of the art skills lab which provides computer programs and life-like models for students to practice on. Advancement to performing skin puncture and venipuncture on lab partners and in the clinical setting requires each student to demonstrate these skills with 100% competency on two occasions while being observed by the instructor.

What are the requirements for taking the phlebotomy course?

Students must be 18 years old in order to apply to the State for the required phlebotomy certificate.

Do I need a high school diploma or GED certificate?

Yes. Both the national examination organization and the State application require a copy of either your high school diploma, or high school transcripts, or copy of your GED certificate. Students are encouraged to complete the requirements for these documents prior to registering for the course.

TB skin test requirement.

All students are required to have on file current TB skin testing results prior to beginning the clinical externship. (Remember, the clinical externship begins after the 9th or 10th week of the semester).

This requirement should not be completed prior to the first class meeting. Cuesta College requires TB skin testing to be done only at the medical facilities specified on the form included in the course syllabus. This requirement can be completed by appointment at the Cuesta College health center at either campus.

This is discussed at the first class meeting. The specific due date for meeting this requirement is included in the current course syllabus.

Do I need a current CPR card?

Yes. The CPR requirements are specified in the course syllabus.

The level of CPR training must be either American Heart Association - Health Care Provider or American Heart Association - Professional Rescuer. ([Link to CPR resource list?](#))

This is discussed at the first class meeting, however, it is encouraged that students register for CPR training as soon as possible. Any of the courses identified on the CPR Resource List will meet this requirement.

Does the CPR class offered in the Cuesta College class schedule meet this requirement?

No. Currently the CPR training offered at Cuesta College is not Health Care Provider or Professional Rescuer training.

When is the CPR certificate due?

The specific due date is identified in the current course syllabus. As a rule the completion of this requirement is due at the 7th week of the semester.

Is the CPR due date flexible?

No. The course requirement due dates listed in the course syllabus are not negotiable.

How much does the phlebotomy class cost?

Is there a required dress code for the phlebotomy program?

Uniform requirement

Can I work as a phlebotomist after completing the Cuesta College phlebotomy training program?

No. Completion of a State approved phlebotomy training program is the first step in the process. Students successfully completing the program will receive a Certificate of Completion from Cuesta College.

Step 2: After successful completion of the course students will need to sit for and pass one of the State approved national examinations. See national examination section for more information on this process.

Step 3: Complete and submit the State application for phlebotomy certification with the required documents and fees. See applying to the State section for more information on this process.

What documents are required with the State application for phlebotomy certification?

What is the fee required when submitting the State application for phlebotomy?

No artificial nails of any kind

No visible piercings other than a maximum of 2 piercings in each ear lobe.

No visible tattoos.

I have learning disabilities or special needs, what resources are available to me?

Cuesta College has excellent resources for students with learning and / or physical needs. Contact Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) at <http://academic.cuesta.edu/acasupp/dsps> (link)

Success rate course completion and national exam

Certificate of completion