

Thanks so much for your chapter's interest in the phlebotomy class! I am going to answer some questions that I anticipate you (and your members) have as well as some of the questions you asked me. I really hope I have answered some of your initial questions to your satisfaction and that I haven't given you information overload! I know you will probably have a ton of additional questions for me so please do not hesitate to contact me as needed, and please don't ever feel that you are bothering me.

ABOUT THE CLASS:

Here is what the weekend class will cover:

- safety techniques, needle safety
- venipuncture and skin puncture techniques
- syringe, vacutainer, butterfly and lancet methods
- collection and handling of specimens
- basic venous anatomy
- equipment selection
- laboratory terminology
- sterile procedures
- hazards/complications
- laboratory safety and Bloodborne Pathogens (OSHA) Standards

This course is a mixture of lecture, demonstrations and hands-on experience. The methods that you will be taught in my class are the best and latest standards in phlebotomy. One of the main goals of my class is for everyone to do a safe, effective and relatively pain free draw and utmost is that none of my students should ever, ever have an accidental needle stick. Believe it or not, too many phlebotomists and many technical school and college programs teach techniques that are inefficient, improper and unsafe and there are many programs, texts, websites, etc., that do not teach the best or the safest techniques. In my class they will learn the correct technique that will ensure they draw blood safely and efficiently while minimizing pain and discomfort to the patient and I will work with each student to develop their proficiency and skill. They will be able to progress at their own rate and skill level under my direct supervision and students will participate in direct laboratory experience by practicing and performing 'live draws' on each other.

I will explain the principles behind each technique so they know why they perform the important steps of the draw in the prescribed manner. It is important for everyone to understand not only the 'how's' of drawing blood safely but why they are doing it. This is crucial to becoming a highly skilled and safe phlebotomist. Everyone is supplied with a practice kit that they will keep and continue to practice on their own after the class in order to firmly ingrain the techniques to memory that and to study from the excellent text that I have compiled from several sources as well as from my own experience as a phlebotomist and teacher. As you can see from the bulleted points above, my lecture is very comprehensive in covering the important aspects of phlebotomy. As I have been teaching phleb since 1995 and have taught thousands of students including numerous pre-med and pre-health students, my course has consistently been rated by them as excellent. It is especially gratifying for me to hear glowing reports from some of my students years later especially those that have gone on to be physicians. In one of my recent classes at University of Wisconsin, several people went out to find a summer job as a phlebotomist or to work during the semester. They landed jobs very

soon after class and reported to me that they really excelled as phlebotomists! For the past 7 years, I have provided the training out here in AZ for Maricopa County's Dept of Public Health as well as many of the various HIV/STD clinics. A few years ago, Audrey Broner the Interim Program Manager at HIV/HCV Infection Control and Surveillance with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health wrote to the state of Arizona about my training seminar:

'I wanted to let you know that feedback from staff who attended the Phlebotomy Training this weekend was consistently excellent. Several students had previously attended the venipuncture class at one of the Maricopa Community Colleges and at Phoenix College and said that this program was much better - - much more comprehensive with more opportunity to practice...'

On Sunday, upon successful completion of the class, I hand out the certificates for Phlebotomy Technician which the students can use for employment, drawing blood as a medical student as well as using this skill to list on their medical school apps, etc.

At this point, I want to address an important question that pre-med students may ask which is, 'what does this training and particular class do for me?' The certification and the training you will receive in my particular class are very important for a number of reasons. From my many years of experience providing this training and the large number of pre-health students I have taught and from their feedback here is what I can report to you:

- my training has provided them with a very unique, quality skill which was invaluable in setting them apart from other students applying for med school or other pre-health fields
- my training has opened up unique student employment opportunities where drawing blood is part of their job, such as in clinics, University human-studies research studies (NIH requires that the phlebotomist be certified for human subjects studies), various on or even off-campus employment, etc.
- the techniques they learned in this class really allowed them to excel over most other med students, residents and phlebotomists
- as med students and nurses, they were incredibly far ahead of the curve in phlebotomy, starting IV's and related procedures.
- it gave them much greater opportunity for more hands-on experience with patients as a med student (as a med student you will be allowed to have patient contact and draw blood on a patient when the need arises where untrained med students will not)
- and finally it will help reduce future performance anxiety when actually having hands-on patient experience.

CLASS SIZE:

Ideally the class size should be at least 17 people. The reason I want this minimum class size is that the class works best for my students if I can get at least 17 people - the more they can observe the blood draws, the more they learn. So I would hope we can get a minimum of 17 people signed up and pre-registered. Typically AED class sizes have been anywhere from 20 to 32 students. I know that your campus population is not relatively large so I do not know how many students are in your chapter, however, if there are not enough students in your group to fill a class, perhaps we could have a joint class with the main campus in Boulder, for example.

WHO MAY ATTEND:

This weekend class is primarily offered to Pre-Med, Pre-Nursing, Nursing and any Pre-Health or Health Professional students. However, sometimes I get friends and family of students which is perfectly ok. Sometimes outside professional groups (clinics, doctor's offices, etc.) find out about the class and also want to sign up which is great, too.

CLASS COST:

The cost of the class is **\$290** per person if an **AED member**, **\$340** if **not an AED member**. There is a **\$75 non-refundable pre-registration fee** which goes towards the final amount. People can pay the \$75 deposit by personal check or money order. At registration on the first day of class, they can pay the balance for the class by cash or money order. If they want to pay the remaining balance using PayPal, they can let me know a few days in advance of the class. If a person cannot make the class they can apply the deposit to the next class. And if anyone does not pass the class, they can come to as many future classes for free until they pass! If for a very rare reason I have to cancel the class (if it is my fault), then all deposits and any registrations collected are returned or they have the option to apply their payment to the re-scheduled class.

CLASS REGISTRATION:

To register, contact Sherry Lee at leesh7@uw.edu

CLASS HOURS AND LOCATION:

The class will be on **November 7th and 8th**. The class takes two consecutive days, and the scheduled class hours are from 9am-5pm *both* Saturday and Sunday. The class will be held at the **Health Sciences Building (HSB) T-478**. The actual time the class ends each day varies due to class size and how well everyone does. The great thing for me is that pre-med students generally do extremely well in this class and so it is usually a fun teaching experience for me! Since my AED classes are historically my best classes (i.e., best students), I anticipate that if ~25 people attend, we will probably have a full day on Saturday (till 5pm) but my best guess is that class should be over between 1:00 and 2:30pm on Sunday. However, this is only a guess and when class is ultimately over depends upon many factors. The class begins at 9am on both days, but on Saturday, Jan 30, you need to arrive sometime between 8:15-8:30am to get signed in. If you have a commitment where you have to leave a bit early on either day, let me know and we can usually work around it.

EMAILING ME:

If you wish to email and speak with an independent source about the class, please feel free to contact Philip Louie who was AED Vice President last year. He can tell you how important and useful this training was for him as well as his chapter's experience with my training. I can supply you with his email address if you wish to contact him: plouie@uw.edu. ASU's AED has had me hold this training class for them and pre-health students every semester since 2001 and it has been an extremely popular and requested event.

Of course I try to put a lot of 'rah-rah' items in this informational letter but I know this class and weekend seems like it should be really borrrring (the first 2 hours of lecture are honestly a bit boring, but the info is crucial) but as Philip will tell you, I do a pretty good job to entertain you (a bit) in order to keep your energy, focus and interest up and we usually have quite a bit

of fun in the class despite the sticks! I am also absolutely positive that even though the class is very intense and busy, everyone will enthusiastically enjoy the class, learn a lot while having fun doing it (yes, despite the sticks) and they will get more out of it than they can imagine! I can also tell you from my contacts from past pre-med and pre-health students who have taken this class and have gone on to medical school, nursing, have become physicians, etc., that they have unanimously told me that taking this class was one of the best things they did.

Thank you again for considering my services and it will be a pleasure for me to work with you in the class and to answer additional questions. I am looking forward to providing a great learning experience and sharing my knowledge with all those who wish to attend! I am sure those who attend will find this class invaluable all through their health careers.

Best Regards,

Nick Perrotta
520-331-7900

Pros/Cons of AED phlebotomy class vs community college phlebotomy class:

Pros:

1. Better class with an *amazing* instructor
2. Much shorter class: 1 weekend instead of 5 weekends
3. Much cheaper
4. Same certification as community college class
5. Quicker certification for volunteering, enhancing your resume, etc.

Cons:

1. Fewer blood draw practices since class is shorter
2. Less practice but it is only 1 weekend!