

Start a new career by next spring term

CCC's Clinical Lab and Medical Assistant Programs provide fast training for students wanting a career in the medical industry

enter the workforce after just three terms.

The Clinical Lab Assistant program (CLA) requires students to earn 45 credits in classes like CLA Skills I, II and III, Introduction to Healthcare and Laboratory Administrative Skills. Students perform lab testing, practice quality control and learn how to collect and process a variety of specimens.

"We're such a new program; people don't even know that we're here," said Helen Wand, CLA program director. "At this point, we don't even have an interview process."

Oregon recently became the fourth state to house the CLA program in the company of Texas, Minnesota and Massachusetts.

"There is a shortage of clinical laboratory scientists (four-year degree) and medical technologists (two-year degree), so what the [CLA] program is doing is supporting that group of people, just like the medical assistants are now supporting the RNs and LPNs," Wand said.

The Medical Assistant program (MA) requires 51 credits in classes like Medical Insurance and Billing, Introduction to Medications and Fundamentals of Human Development.

"They're actually in a [hospital] setting—they've got the equipment on the walls and a simulated patient that we can create different scenarios with," said Karen Stopper, lead MA instructor. "We do a lot of role playing and prioritizing."

Classes common



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Clinical Lab Assistant students Karen Palmer (LEFT) and Cindi Woodard detect levels of bacterial growth during gram stain testing. Based on their findings, Woodard said she may never drink Snapple again.

to both programs include: Introduction to Human Biology, Human Relations, Phlebotomy, Practicum, Basic Speech, Occupational Writing and Communication. In addition, externships allow students to apply the skills they've learned in a professional setting.

CLA and MA programs can only hold 24 students per year on a first-come basis. A placement test to assess reading, writing and arithmetic skills must be taken prior to acceptance into either program.

Once accepted, successful completion depends in part on the students' ability to multitask, pay attention to detail and their level of dexterity.

According to Wand, the CLA program needs people who can

see a task to its completion in a timely manner.

"We do a lot of it and we need to get results. It is extremely important that students have good attention skills because they need to focus," she said. "It's also helpful if they can get along with other people, because they will work closely with a lot of different types of personalities."

MA's, on the other hand, work closely with patients and must be attuned to their patients' needs.

"[We are looking for] a person that has a desire and ability to communicate. There is a lot of patient listening and patient education, so we need to hear what the patient is telling us," said Stopper. "It's not just what they're saying; it's what they are not saying. [MAs] need to

listen with their hearts."

Advisory boards made up of instructors, present and former students and medical professionals provide community support for both programs, keeping them up-to-date on current needs in order to help prepare students for hire.

"We are a community college and we take that term very seriously because we are taking our students and providing workers to our healthcare community," said Stopper.

Students interested in either program should contact Helen Wand (CLA) at ext. 5055 or Karen Stopper (MA) at ext. 2219 to initiate the application process, as space is limited. Information can also be obtained online at <http://depts.clackamas.or.us/healthsciences>.

There are various options available to CCC students who want to spend less time in school and more time earning a decent living at something worthwhile; two such programs are the Clinical Lab Assistant and Medical Assistant programs—both of which provide an opportunity to



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simulated patients like Ken are programmed with realistic symptoms for medical Assistant students to assess.

Making strides against breast cancer

There is still time to represent CCC in the walk against breast cancer.



When: Sunday, May 16, 2004

Where: Portland Park Blocks 5 miles through Downtown

NO ENTRY FEE!

For additional information, contact Karen Stopper at ext. 2219

Applications for Internship Scholarships are being accepted

The Math Department is awarding two scholarships. Stop by offices S101 and ask Becky or S138 and ask Kathy.

The Applications are due: May 20, 2004

WICHITA BAR & GRILL

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503-557-0277
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