



*A Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia - Equal Opportunity Institution*

## **Laboratory Clinical Assistant Program**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Q: What are the responsibilities of a Laboratory Clinical Assistant (LCA)?**

An LCA works in different clinical settings to:

- Perform venipuncture & capillary collection
- Conduct basic lab tests (urinalysis, glucose, strep)
- Manage specimen handling
- Collect vital signs
- Support outpatient clinical workflows

#### **Q: What career opportunities are available for LCAs?**

LCAs have a variety of career opportunities in healthcare and beyond. Graduates are prepared for roles such as:

- Clinic Assistant
- Laboratory Assistant
- Phlebotomist with expanded duties
- Medical Office Support Technician

These positions offer strong entry points into the healthcare field and can serve as steppingstones toward future programs in nursing, medical assisting, medical laboratory technician, and other allied health pathways.

#### **Q: Why should I choose Chattahoochee Technical College's CLA Program?**

Chattahoochee Technical College's Laboratory Clinic Assistant (Phlebotomy) Program stands out as a fast, focused, and career-ready pathway into one of the fastest-growing areas of healthcare. Here's what makes our program an exceptional choice:

##### **1. A Competitive Edge in a High-Demand Field**

Employment for Laboratory Clinic Assistants is **projected to grow 14% from 2024–2034**, far faster than average. The program equips you with the exact skills local outpatient clinics, physician offices, urgent care centers, and diagnostic laboratories are actively seeking.

##### **2. Expanded Skills Beyond Phlebotomy**

Built on the strong foundation of our Phlebotomy Technician Certificate, this short-term program adds essential clinical assisting skills so you can:

- Perform venipuncture and capillary collection
- Conduct basic lab tests such as urinalysis, glucose, and strep
- Collect vital signs
- Manage specimen handling
- Support outpatient clinical workflows
- Practice safety and infection control

These hands-on skills empower you to thrive in busy clinical environments where accuracy and patient comfort matter.

### **3. Fast Pathway to the Workforce**

This certificate is designed to get you working quickly. Certified phlebotomists can add just **one additional semester (two courses)** to expand their clinical competencies and broaden their career opportunities.

### **4. Relevant, Real-World Curriculum**

Your coursework includes the foundational and advanced content employers expect, such as:

- Human body structure and function
  - Venipuncture techniques
  - Clinical practice
  - Laboratory screening & monitoring
  - Medical terminology
- This ensures you graduate confident, capable, and career-ready.

### **5. Multiple Career Opportunities**

Graduates are prepared for roles such as:

- Clinic Assistant
- Laboratory Assistant
- Patient Care Technician
- Phlebotomist with expanded duties
- Medical Office Support Technician

These positions offer strong entry points into the healthcare field and can serve as steppingstones toward future programs in nursing, medical assisting, medical laboratory technician, and other allied health pathways.

### **6. Hands-On Training With Experienced Faculty**

You'll be supported by instructors who understand today's healthcare environment and are committed to helping you succeed. Combined with strong employer partnerships, you'll benefit from practical, real-world preparation.

### **Q: Are there certifications available as a LCA?**

Yes. Students can sit for certifications with American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), American Medical Technologists (AMT), National Phlebotomy Certification Examination (NPCE), and National Healthcareer Association (NHA)

**Q: I am a certified Phlebotomist, but did not graduate from Chatt Tech. Will you accept my certification?**

Yes. The college will award credit for PHLT 1030 and PHLT 1050 courses based on the verification of the Phlebotomist’s credentials.

**Q: Is the LCA Program offered online or available through night classes?**

The LCA program is blended with online and on-campus laboratory skills offered in person on the Marietta campus. Currently, classes are only offered on Monday-Friday during regular business hours.

Students participate in clinical/applied learning site rotations during the final year of the program (2 semesters). Students must have dependable transportation and may be required to travel for some clinical rotations. Rotations on evenings, nights or weekends may be required. Non-traditional shifts may be created to accommodate the clinical sites.

**Q: How long does it take to complete the LCA Program?**

The program takes 2 semesters to complete. Certified phlebotomists can complete the program in one semester.

**Q: What are the requirements for students to participate in clinical/applied learning site rotations?**

A clinical/applied learning site is a hospital or clinical site where students perform rotations to practice under the guidance of qualified clinical staff to achieve entry-level competency. Students are required to get a Background Check, Drug Screen, vaccinations, and other requirements. Specific requirements can be obtained by contacting Dr. Lori Bane at [lori.bane@chattahoocheetech.edu](mailto:lori.bane@chattahoocheetech.edu).

**Q: What are the estimated costs for the LCA Program?**

Semester	Tuition & Fees for GA Residents	Books	Clinical Fees	Licensure Exam Prep & Comp Exam	Total
2 semesters	<b>\$1,819</b> <b>17 credits</b> <b>\$496 fees</b> <b>\$100 Supply fee</b>	\$118	Uniforms/shoes-\$200  Drug Screen/Criminal Background Check-\$80.00 <u>Proof of Immunizations (estimated: \$1290)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flu vaccine (annually)-\$20-\$50</li> <li>• COVID-19 vaccine-\$0-\$130 per dose</li> <li>• MMR (Measles/Mumps/Rubella)- \$60-\$130</li> <li>• Varizella Zoster (Chickenpox)- \$120-\$200 per dose (2 doses needed)</li> <li>• Hepatitis B (full series)- \$40-\$100 per dose (3 doses = \$120-\$300 total)</li> <li>• Td, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)- \$45-\$80</li> <li>• QuantiFERON GOLD PLUS for TB (annually) – If positive some sites may require proof of treatment along with chest x-ray-\$100-\$200</li> </ul>	\$150	\$3657

Tuition cost is \$107 per credit hour for GA residents. See CTC Website for specific description of fees. Costs for food, housing and transportation during clinical internships are not included. ***All supply costs are estimates.***

**Q: Can I work while I go through the LCA program?**

It is possible to work while in the program. Your clinical schedule can also vary (including evenings and weekends). If you do choose to work, a flexible schedule is strongly recommended.

**Q: I still have questions. How can I find out more information about the LCA Program?**

You can contact LCA Program Advisor, April Tolley, at [april.tolley@chattahoocheetech.edu](mailto:april.tolley@chattahoocheetech.edu).