

Cooperating Lab FAQ's Information

What is the role of a "Cooperating Laboratory?" Instruction for the Barton Community College MLT and Phlebotomy programs is delivered in an online classroom. Laboratory skills are learned, practiced and perfected in a supporting cooperative laboratory while working with a qualified mentor. This "hands-on" instruction in the supporting cooperative laboratory is to provide basic instruction for laboratory practices that "mirror" training received in the Great Bend campus MLT laboratory. Lab Guides are available.

How are cooperative hours different from "Clinical Rotations?" Traditional clinical practicum rotations are completed AFTER the courses are completed and must be done within a clinical setting. These clinical hours are when students will be working (unpaid) as an entry level MLT under direct supervision. Barton MLT and Phlebotomy students are required to complete BOTH cooperative hours during classes, and clinical hours at the end of the program.

As a Cooperating Laboratory you agree to allow personnel from your laboratory to provide direct, on-site supervision and basic bench instruction related to performance of routine laboratory procedures, to evaluate respective laboratory competencies, and to give other valuable assistance as needed.

How much time per week is the student expected to be in the Cooperating Laboratory for the specified learning experiences? The student is expected to spend the same amount of time in their Cooperating Laboratory as a Great Bend campus student would spend in the campus MLT Laboratory for the same course.

- **Phlebotomy:** requires 1-3 hours per week cooperative lab hours to develop basic specimen collection and lab skills. Eligibility for the ASCP/ASPT certification exam will require an additional Phlebotomy clinical practicum. The clinical practicum is arranged with the health care facility AND the MLT/Phlebotomy program director.
- **Urinalysis & body fluids:** 2 hours/week Fall and Spring; 3 hours/week Summer session
- **Clinical Chemistry:** 2 hours/week
- **Pathogenic Microbiology:** 4 hours/week; **ideal** - 2hours for 2 consecutive days; 4 hours in one day is NOT allowed without Director permission.
- **Human Parasitology:** no cooperative lab required
- **Hematology & Coagulation:** 4 hours/week
- **Immunology/ Serology:** no cooperative lab required
- **Immunochemistry:** 4 hours/week
- **Clinical Lab Operations:** no cooperative lab required

How does the student document their learning experiences? Students keep a time log and daily diary that details the amount of time they are in the cooperating laboratory...the log must be initialed daily by the person who is supervising your learning experience, signed weekly before submission, and entries must be handwritten. These documents are submitted weekly to the CANVAS online class.

When do the courses start and finish? Most Cooperating Classes will begin in August and continue for 16 weeks until December for the Fall semester; Spring semester will begin in January and continue for 16 weeks, finishing in May. Phlebotomy classes may be offered in 16-week and/or 8-week formats during Fall, Spring and Summer sessions. Urinalysis, Human Parasitology, and Immunology *may* be offered in Summer accelerated 12-week sessions.

For what courses would we provide a Cooperating Laboratory experience? This depends on each individual student's curriculum plan that the student can provide for you. This also depends on the volume and variety of testing and staffing situation in your laboratory. The College staff, upon review of information about your laboratory, will determine its suitability to be a Cooperating Laboratory for the various courses in the MLT Program.

Who are the instructors for the courses? The MLT instructors are Karen Gunther, Andrea Thompson, Risa Bayliff, Tyler Brown. The student can tell you the name of the instructor for each course or it can be viewed under the MLT student handbook.

How do I contact an instructor? Call Barton County Community College at 888-423-1711 for the department secretary who will direct your call to the appropriate instructor. Email is usually the best and the student will have access in their course to the instructor's email. Questions may also be directed to MLT Program Director Karen Gunther at guntherka@bartonccc.edu or by calling 620-786-1133.