

Histotechnician Program

A cooperative agreement exists between Northampton Community College (NCC) and Reading Area Community College (RACC) for students wishing to pursue a career as a Histotechnician.

Students must successfully complete general education courses at Northampton Community College and complete the remainder of the Histotechnician (HT) program at Reading Area Community College. After satisfactory completion of all program requirements, students earn an Associate Degree in Applied Science in the Histotechnician Program from Reading Area Community College.



About the Program

The A.A.S. degree program in Histotechnology is designed to provide quality instruction to develop highly skilled and ethical histologic technology providers. Students will obtain the necessary academic and technical skills in all areas of the histology laboratory. Technical skills will include training to process body tissues for microscopic examination, frozen section assistance, embedding techniques, microtomy, and special staining techniques.

The primary goal of this program is to provide the theoretical and practical training necessary to prepare a student to enter the job market as an entry level, competent histotechnician who is eligible to become a certified Histotechnician (HT) through the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

Upon completion from the Histotechnician Program, graduates will:

- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to perform current laboratory procedures as entry-level Histotechnicians.
- Follow approved safety procedures and standards of practice when working in the histology laboratory.
- Recognize unexpected results and instrument malfunctions and take appropriate actions.
- Exhibit professional and ethical behaviors consistent with those of a healthcare professional.

For More Information

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Histotechnician Program

Reading Area Community College
Northampton Community College

Courses to be taken at Northampton Community College:

Course		Credits
COLS 101	College Success	3
CMTH 102	Intro to Comm OR	3
ENGL 151	English II	
MATH 140	College Algebra	3
SOCA 103	Principles of Sociology	3
PSYC 103	Intro to Psychology	
ENGL 101	English I	3
PHIL 202	Ethics & Moral Problems	3
CHEM 120	General Chemistry I	4
BIOS 204	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIOS 254	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
BIOS 220	Microbiology	4
TOTAL		34

Course to be taken at RACC prior to applying for selective admission:

Fall Semester		Credits
HTT 110	Intro to Histology	1
TOTAL		1

HT students must have a "C" or better in all courses in the HT curriculum. The student must achieve a science/math GPA of 2.5 or higher (combined GPA of BIOS 204, MATH 140 and HTT 110).



At the time of application, the following courses must be completed, or currently in progress: BIOS 204, MATH 140, and HTT 110. The student must submit the following by January 1:

- A comprehensive Letter of Application requesting clinical student status.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation; at least one must be from a NCC or RACC faculty member.

Admission into the clinical portion of the HT program is on a selective basis. The application deadline for selective admission into the clinical portion of the program is January 1st.

Upon acceptance into the clinical portion of the HT program, the student will be required to complete and submit proof of the following by April 1st:

- Proof of COVID-19 and flu vaccination.
- Full medical assessment including physical exam, medical history, and vaccinations or proof of immunity.
- BLS certification for the professional rescuer (approved providers are AHA only).
- "No record" status for PA Child Abuse Clearance, PA State Police Criminal Record Check and FBI fingerprint check.
- Proof of a negative drug screen within 30 days of the first day of the summer practicum.
- Proof of current enrollment in a health insurance plan.
- Agreement to abide by dress code/personal appearance and other policies set forth by the clinical affiliates.

The following classes are to be taken at Reading Area Community College upon acceptance into the clinical portion of the Histotechnician Program.

Spring Semester		Credits
HTT 120	Histology Techniques	3
Summer Semester		Credits
HTT 150	HT Practicum I	4
Fall Semester		Credits
HTT 210	Stains and Procedures	3
HTT 250	HT Practicum II	6
Spring Semester		Credits
HTT 220	Special Techniques in Histology	3
HTT 275	HT Practicum III	9
TOTAL		28

