Cytotechnology

Nature of the Profession

Cytology is defined as the study of cells. Cytotechnologists perform microscopic evaluation of patient samples for the purposes of diagnosing cancer, precancerous lesions, benign tumors, infectious agents, and inflammatory processes. Cytotechnologists help save lives by discovering certain diseases early when treatment is most effective. Thus a career as a cytotechnologist can be both challenging and rewarding.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn the principles and methods of cytotechnology
- Strong verbal and math ability to do tests, understand technical literature, and talk with other personnel
- Good space and form perception and ability to see differences in color
- Ability to make decisions based on data, handle a variety of duties, and work with exact standards
- Good manual dexterity
- Ability to do precise work accurately and timely

EDUCATION

Admission to the cytotechnology program requires the applicant to possess a four-year bachelor's degree with 20 semester hours of biology, 8 semester hours of chemistry and 3 semester hours of math.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha (PBC)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Before entering UNMC's accredited program for cytotechnology, an individual must have a bachelor of science degree from an accredited institution. Licensing is not required by the State of Nebraska, but must be certified by the Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP).

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society for Clinical Pathology
Web Address: www.ascp.org

American Society of Cytotechnology
Web Address: www.asct.com

American Society of Cytopathology
Web Address: www.cytopathology.org