Cytotechnology

Program Overview

Cytotechnology is an allied health specialty that involves the evaluation of cellular materials from all body sites. Cytotechnologists are involved in the microscopic recognition of normal and abnormal cytology, primarily but not limited to malignant neoplasms and precancerous lesions but also infectious and inflammatory processes in gynecologic, non-gynecologic and fine needle aspiration specimens.

Cytotechnologists make contributions in the following areas:

- Detecting cellular changes with the use of a microscope to diagnose malignant conditions as well as benign diseases
- Preparing various cytologic laboratory specimens as well as performing special stains and using adjunct technologies such as Flow Cytometry, Image Analysis, PCR and FISH
- Assisting physicians in Fine Needle Aspiration procedures and interacting with them in determining the diagnosis of various diseases
- Supervising and teaching other laboratory personnel
- Monitoring the quality and validity of reports through quality assurance program

Program description

The Rutgers, School of Health-Related Professions (SHRP) Cytotechnology Program is the only accredited cytotechnology educational program in New Jersey. The curriculum is designed to prepare graduates in scientific/technical areas, supervision, management, safety, education and research. It provides an overview of the legal, ethical, economic, political and social aspects of the profession and the health care system in general. Finally, the curriculum is also designed to help students develop generic skills in effective communication, problem solving and self-directed learning.
The curriculum consists of 45 credits of professional coursework and is 12 months (3 semesters) in duration. At least 90 semester hours of preprofessional basic science and general education course requirements are completed before entering the Program. The Program is primarily designed for students seeking their first baccalaureate degree. However, other options are available to individuals who already possess a baccalaureate degree or equivalent.

Classes begin annually in the fall semester with a maximum enrollment of 12 students. The curriculum consists of classroom and on-line lectures/seminars and on-campus student laboratory experiences. This is followed by supervised microscopic clinical practice at off-campus affiliated hospital and reference laboratories. Additional experiences are provided in molecular diagnostics, statistics, research, management and educational methodologies. Program graduates are eligible for certification in the Cytotechnologist category (CT) and Molecular Pathology (MP) administered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

Students are expected to attend all daily didactic and microscopic sessions. Classes are held on the Scotch Plains campus. Students must provide their own transportation to off-campus clinical affiliated sites.

**Description Of The Profession**

Cytotechnologists are allied health professionals who practice diagnostic cytology, the microscopic recognition of normal and abnormal cytology including, but not limited to, malignant neoplasms, precancerous lesions, infectious agents and inflammatory processes in gynecologic, non-gynecologic and fine needle aspiration specimens. Cytotechnologists must possess a basic knowledge of contemporary procedures and technologies as well as the technical skills for a wide variety of cytologic laboratory specimen preparations. Cytotechnologists must possess qualitative and quantitative performance skills which include detection, diagnostic, decision-making, recording and communication skills. Cytotechnologists must demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of scientific research and the importance of continuing education, and demonstrate knowledge of their ethical role and responsibilities by practicing honesty and integrity in their professional duties.

**Full-time and Part-time status**
The program is offered on a full time basis only.

**Department Faculty**
Please see the department faculty under [Clinical Lab Sciences](#) Department/Scotch Plains campus.
Primary Campus Location
The program is based in the Scotch Plains campus.

Curriculum
See database for program requirements and course descriptions and select your program.

Mission/Goals/Objectives
The mission of the Cytotechnology Program is to educate competent diagnosticians in cytotechnology through comprehensive didactic and practical educational experiences in order to meet the healthcare needs of the State of New Jersey and the nation as a whole.

The educational goals of the program are:

1. To prepare competent entry-level cytotechnologists to function in a clinical laboratory setting;
2. To provide students a thorough knowledge of diagnostic cytopathology; and
3. To prepare students to adapt to a dynamic health care environment.

Major Clinical Affiliates
- Laboratory Corporation of America, Raritan, NJ
- AHS/Morristown Memorial Hospital, Morristown, NJ
- Monmouth Medical Center, Monmouth, NJ
- Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Newark, NJ
- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick, NJ
- St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, NJ
- St. Clare's Hospital, Denville, NJ
- St. Joseph's Medical Center, Paterson, NJ
- Somerset Medical Center, Somerville, NJ
- St. Michael's Medical Center, Newark, NJ
- Quest Diagnostics, Teterboro, NJ
- The Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, NJ
- University Hospital, Newark, NJ

Accreditation Status
Through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and the Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee of the American Society of Cytopathology
400 West 9th St., Suite 201
Wilmington, DE 19801

Phone: (302) 429-8802  Contact: Debby McIntyre, CPRC Coordinator
Date of accreditation: Reaccredited on January, 2011 for a period of 5 years

Admissions requirements
Applicants seeking a first baccalaureate degree please refer to the pre-professional course requirements listed in the Joint BS in CLS program. Applicants with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited US college or university will be considered for a second degree, BS in CLS from Rutgers, if space is available. See BS in CLS (second degree) program description for further information.

Applicants with an international degree will be considered for a Certificate, depending on space availability, if their degree is equivalent to a US baccalaureate degree as determined by an appropriate international transcript evaluation agency. They must meet the basic science requirements listed in the pre-professional component of the Joint BS in CLS program.

G.P.A. minimum requirement/credentialing requirement
Achievement of an overall grade point average of 2.75 (4.0=A) and grades of C or better in all required science courses

Additional Offerings
Liquid-based monolayer morphology/technology training (Thin Prep and Sure Path), need-based retraining program, and "Imager" training are available.

Additional programmatic information is available on-line.

For more information
For more information contact the Office of Enrollment Services at (973) 972-5336 or via e-mail.

For more specific information contact the program at:
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Biopharma Educational Initiative
Cytotechnology Program
Cecilia B. Vallejo, M.D., Program Director
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