



Columbia Southern University – Dept. of Continuing Education  
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**Education & Training Plan**  
**Dialysis Technician Certificate Program**  
**Columbia Southern University (CSU)**

Student Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mentor Supported**

**Dialysis Technician Certificate Program**

Course Code: CSU-DT 09  
Program Duration: 4 Months  
Contact Hours: 375  
Student Tuition: \$3,000

**The Dialysis Technician Profession**

As kidney failure continues to be a growing national health problem, kidney disease is driving the growing demand for well-trained dialysis technicians. Dialysis technicians are employed in hospitals, outpatient clinics, and other medical facilities. The number of dialysis technician jobs has the potential to increase by more than 35% by 2018.

While most technician training has historically been done “on-the-job,” today’s healthcare employers are seeking well-trained technicians who possess the necessary knowledge and skills to fill this growing number of positions.

**The Dialysis Technician Program**

This Dialysis Technician Program provides students with the knowledge needed to perform as a dialysis technician. This program will review kidney dialysis machines, preparing dialyzer reprocessing and delivery systems, and review equipment maintenance. This Dialysis Technician Program provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to perform the duties required of dialysis technicians. This course covers the following key areas and topics:

- Specific procedures to operate kidney dialysis machines
- Preparation of the dialyzer, reprocessing and delivery systems
- Equipment maintenance
- Skills to monitor and record a patient’s vital signs
- The process for a dialysis teams’ administration of local anesthetics and drugs as needed
- Assessment of patients for any complications that occur during a procedure
- Patient training for at-home dialysis treatment and techniques to provide emotional support patients need for self-care

### **Education and Certifications**

- Students should have or be pursuing a high school diploma or GED.
- There are no state approval and/or state requirements associated with this program.

### **Dialysis Technician Detailed Course Information:**

- Knowledge and use of aseptic techniques and standard precautions
- Renal physiology and the pathology of renal failure
- How to perform and record physical measurements including weight and vital signs
- Principles of hemodialysis and hematological aspects
- Dialyzer reuse preparation, dialysate, and delivery systems
- Basic body chemistry including fluid and electrolyte balance
- Clinical manifestations of end-stage renal disease
- Routine aspects of hemodialysis
- Dietary regulation and medication problems relating to dialysis
- Acute renal failure and dialysis
- Kidney transplantation
- Peritoneal dialysis
- Diabetes and hemodialysis
- Pediatric hemodialysis
- End-stage renal disease in the elderly
- Composition of dialysate solution
- Anticoagulation and heparin administration
- Handling of hazardous materials

### **National Certification**

This program is designed to cover the key objectives of the leading dialysis technician certification exams. Although some students do immediately pursue certain certifications, most national exams require job experience for formal dialysis technician certification. The BONENT Certified Hemodialysis Technologist/Technician examination requires one year of experience (12 months) in nephrology patient care, and current active participation in an End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) facility.

**Columbia Southern University contact:** If students have any questions regarding this program including national certification and externships, **they should call Laurie Coleman at 800.977.8449 x1840 or via email at [laurie.coleman@columbiasouthern.edu](mailto:laurie.coleman@columbiasouthern.edu).**

Note: No refunds can be issued after the start date published in your Financial Award document.



## About Columbia Southern University!

### Welcome to Columbia Southern University!

**OUR MISSION:** Columbia Southern University provides diverse learning experiences and affordable, flexible distance education programs at the certificate, undergraduate, and graduate levels to a global student body, delivered by qualified, student-centered faculty committed to teaching and student learning. The University is dedicated to providing exceptional academic and student support services.

**OUR VISION:** The Vision of Columbia Southern University is to change and improve lives through higher education by enabling students to maximize their professional and personal potential.

The Continuing Education Department at Columbia Southern University is committed to a program of public service, outreach and continuing education by sharing resources with the workforce to enhance the intellectual capital of all those in need or desire lifelong learning and development. <http://www.columbiasouthern.edu/online-degree/continuing-education>



### Columbia Southern University and Pearson Education

Columbia Southern University's eLearning programs were developed in partnership with Pearson Education to produce the highest quality, best-in-class content and delivery necessary to enhance the overall student learning experience, boost understanding and ensure retention. Pearson Education is the premier content and learning company in North America offering solutions to the higher education and career training divisions of colleges and universities across the country aimed at driving quality education programs to ensure student success. Please visit us at [www.pearson.com](http://www.pearson.com).

### About Pearson Education

Welcome to Pearson. We have a simple mission: to help people make more of their lives through learning. We are the world's leading learning company, with 40,000 employees in more than 80 countries helping people of all ages to make measurable progress in their lives. We provide a range of education products and services to institutions, governments and direct to individual learners, that help people everywhere aim higher and fulfil their true potential. Our commitment to them requires a holistic approach to education. It begins by using research to understand what sort of learning works best, it continues by bringing together people and organizations to develop ideas, and it comes back round by measuring the outcomes of our products.

## Lesson Checklist

Each lesson has a prescribed, detailed checklist of activities for successful completion of the lesson. This includes lesson objectives, readings, and recommended assignments. Although assignments are optional, the instructor will grade and provide feedback on submitted assignments.

## Course Materials

Review of Hemodialysis for Nurses and Dialysis Personnel

## Module/Lesson Structure

The Dialysis Technician program is divided into five main content modules. Each module contains one or more lesson presentations to view. These lesson presentations are the “lectures” which, along with the textbook readings and resources, will help you learn the material. The lesson presentations address a variety of learning styles and preferences using text, audio, video, etc. Each lesson contains at least one *Check Your Understanding* interactive self-assessment that will help you gauge your comprehension of that lesson’s content. Many lessons include supplemental resources such as videos, and flashcards. Using these additional materials will deepen your understanding of the content.

## Course Overview

### Module 1 – Dialysis and Renal Disease

- Lesson 1 – The Dialysis Team and History of Dialysis
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 1: pp. 1-11 and Chapter 2: pp. 12-16
- Lesson 2 – Basic Chemistry of Body Fluids and Electrolytes
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 3: pp. 17-29
- Lesson 3 – Renal Physiology and the Pathology of Renal Failure
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 4: pp. 30-43
- Lesson 4 – Clinical Manifestations of End-Stage Renal Disease
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 5: pp. 44-57

### Module 2 – Principles of Hemodialysis

- Lesson 5 – The Dialysate
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 6: pp. 65-68
- Lesson 6 – The Dialyzer
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 6: pp. 58-65, Chapter 9: pp. 108-114
- Lesson 7 – The Delivery System
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 6: pp. 68-71
- Lesson 8 – Principles of Hemodialysis
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 7: pp. 79-89
- Lesson 9 – Water Treatment
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 8: pp. 90-107
- Lesson 10 – Infection Control
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 10: pp. 115-132

### Module 3 – Needs of the Dialysis Patient

- Lesson 11 – Anticoagulation and Heparin Administration
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 11: pp. 133-140
- Lesson 12 – Access to the Bloodstream
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 12: pp. 141-163
- Lesson 13 – Patient and Machine Monitoring and Assessment
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 13: pp. 164-184
- Lesson 14 – Nutrition Management
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 14: pp. 185-200

- Lesson 15 – Laboratory Data: Analysis and Interpretation
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 15: pp. 201-209

#### **Module 4 – Dialysis Complications and Related Procedures**

- Lesson 16 – Diabetes and Hemodialysis
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 16: pp. 210-219
- Lesson 17 – Medication Problems and Dialysis
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 17: pp. 220-245
- Lesson 18 – Acute Kidney Injury and Dialysis
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 18: pp. 246-269
- Lesson 19 – Peritoneal Dialysis and Home Dialysis Therapies
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 19: pp. 270-293
- Lesson 20 – Kidney Transplants
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 20: pp. 294-310

#### **Module 5 – Special Dialysis Populations**

- Lesson 21 – Pediatric Hemodialysis
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 21: pp. 311-322
- Lesson 22 – Chronic Kidney Disease in the Elderly
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 22: pp. 323-328
- Lesson 23 – Psychosocial Effects of Dialysis Therapy
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 23: pp. 329-339
- Lesson 24 – Management of Quality in Dialysis Care
  - Reading Assignment: Chapter 24: pp. 340-356

**Note: This program can be completed in 4 months. However, students will have online access to this program for a 24-month period.**

## **MICROSOFT OFFICE Module**

- Use an integrated software package, specifically the applications included in the Microsoft Office suite
- Demonstrate marketable skills for enhanced employment opportunities
- Describe proper computer techniques for designing and producing various types of documents
- Demonstrate the common commands & techniques used in Windows desktop
- List the meaning of basic PC acronyms like MHz, MB, KB, HD and RAM
- Use WordPad and MSWord to create various types of documents
- Create headings and titles with Word Art
- Create and format spreadsheets, including the use of mathematical formulas
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of computer database functions, including putting, processing, querying and outputting data
- Define computer terminology in definition matching quizzes
- Use the Windows Paint program to alter graphics
- Use a presentation application to create a presentation with both text and graphics
- Copy data from one MS Office application to another application in the suite
- Use e-mail and the Internet to send Word and Excel file attachments
- Demonstrate how to use the Windows Taskbar and Windows Tooltips
- Explain how copyright laws pertain to data and graphics posted on the Internet
- Take the college computer competency test after course completion
- Follow oral and written directions and complete assignments when working under time limitations

**Note:** Although the Microsoft Office Module is not required to successfully complete this program, students interested in pursuing free Microsoft MOS certification may want to consider completing this Microsoft Office Module at no additional cost.

### **System Requirements:**

#### **Windows Users:**

- Windows 8, 7, XP or Vista
- 56K modem or higher
- Soundcard & Speakers
- Firefox, Chrome or Microsoft Internet Explorer

#### **Mac OS User:**

- Mac OS X or higher (in classic mode)
- 56K modem or higher
- Soundcard & Speakers
- Apple Safari

#### **iPad Users:**

- Due to Flash limitations, eLearning programs are NOT compatible with iPads

#### **Screen Resolution:**

- We recommend setting your screen resolution to 1024 x 768 pixels.

#### **Browser Requirements:**

- System will support the two latest releases of each browser. When using older versions of a browser, users risk running into problems with the course software.
- Windows Users: Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Mac OS Users: Apple Safari, Google Chrome Mozilla Firefox

#### **Suggested Plug-ins:**

- Flash Player
- Real Player
- Adobe Reader
- Java