

CLINICAL PERFUSIONIST

A Clinical Perfusionist utilizes the heart-lung machine during cardiac surgery as well as many other surgeries that require cardiopulmonary bypass. They are solely responsible for managing the patient's physiological status during such critical times.

CAREER DESCRIPTION*

- » National median salary: \$175,000
- » National projected career growth: 14%
- » Operate heart-lung machine, an artificial blood pump
- » Spend about 90% of their time in the operating room
- » Communicate with surgeons throughout procedures

TYPICAL EDUCATION**

- » Years of School (including undergraduate): 4-6 years**
-includes 4-year degree plus training program
- » Minimum Entering GPA: 3.0***
- » Grades of C- or better required for prerequisite courses***
- » Typical entry-level education: Bachelor's Degree***
- » Certification required: CCP – 2-part exam**
-PBSE & CAPE

NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » University of Nebraska Medical Center: 20
- » University of Iowa: 4-5
- » Rush University: 20

COMPETITIVE STUDENTS ALWAYS...

- » Earn a bachelor's degree
- » Maintain a competitive academic record
- » Display strong academics in math and science courses
- » Shadow professionals in the field
- » Gain medical experience through volunteering or work

WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL SAY

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I enjoy the clinical perfusion education program at UNMC, because it allowed me to gain the absolute necessary education for a demanding profession in clinical perfusion.

-Dan Gillespie, UNMC Graduate

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I chose the UNMC perfusion program for its superior clinical experience, which started the very first week, and continued beyond that to some pretty neat cities and hospitals.

-Kailin Bellows, UNMC Graduate

*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Data and info from the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion

***Data and information from UNMC

Last update: 9.2025

Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

University of Nebraska Medical Center	University of Iowa
Rush University	

*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

*Most schools prefer science classes to be taken in-person versus online.

UNMC's Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 18)			
Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
BIOL 2740 Human Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab	4	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2840 Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab	4	F, S, M	BIOL 2740

Chemistry (minimum credits: 13)			
CHEM 1180 & 1184 General Chemistry I & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 or CHEM 1140 & 1144
CHEM 1190 & 1194 General Chemistry II & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 and CHEM 1180 & 1184
AND			
CHEM 2210/2214 Fund of Organic Chemistry & Lab	5	F, S	CHEM 1140 & 1144 or CHEM 1190 & 1194
OR			
CHEM 2250 Organic Chemistry I	3	F, S, M	CHEM 1190 & 1194
AND			
CHEM 2260 & 2274 Organic Chemistry II & Lab	5	F, S	CHEM 2250

Physics (minimum credits: 5)			
PHYS 1050 & 1054 Introduction to Physics & Lab	5	F, S	High School Algebra
PHYS 1110/1154 Physics for Life Science I & Lab	5	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320
PHYS 2110 & 1154 General Physics (Calculus) & Lab	5	F, S, M	MATH 1950

Statistics (minimum credits: 3)			
BIOL 2020 Statistics for Life and Environ. Science	3	F, S	MATH 1120, 1130, 1300, or 1320
PSYC 3130 Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530
SOC 2130 Social Statistics	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530
STAT 1530 Elementary Statistics	3	F, S	ACT 19 or ALEKS 4
STAT 3000 Statistical Methods I	3	F, S	MATH 1300 or 1320

Medical Terminology (minimum credits: 1)			
BIOL 1160 Terminology of Human Health & Disease	2	F, S	
HEKI 2000 Medical Terminology	1	F, S, M	

Three (3) unique conversations with a Perfusionist are required. Three separate Conversation Confirmation Forms reflecting these experiences must be uploaded into the online application by the application deadline.

It is recommended that students take courses in chemistry, biology, and mathematics beyond the required minimum.

*Interested students may reach out to UNMC's Allied Health Admissions at cahpadmissions@unmc.edu.