

# 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: \$128,237
- » 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

“

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

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UNO Health Careers Resource Center

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[cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc](https://cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc)

Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

<a href="#">University of Nebraska Medical Center</a>	<a href="#">University of Iowa</a>
<a href="#">Rush University</a>	

\*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 General Physics (Algebra) & 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

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](mailto:cahpadmissions@unmc.edu).