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First of all I would recommend the textbook, Phlebotomy Essentials (McCall and Tankersley) the 6th (newer) edition along with the Student Workbook. I have found these to be excellent references.

The Course specifications are for an 8 week, 6 credit online compressed course that would give 5 weeks to theory and a three week internship. The amount of time spent on theory must be sufficient to accomplish all of the objectives in the outline and have sufficient "hands on" time to practice on the fake arms and do live sticks. The hands on time is a critical component in establishing correct technique and confidence for entry level phlebotomists.

The Course objectives appear to be complete and well designed. All of the course outcomes are included in the textbook and workbook. Competencies for the student need to be more precise such as 5 successful venipunctures and a final practicum that would encompass different situations that the student may face. Phlebotomy is a very invasive procedure and the students must be proficient in safely and precisely drawing blood from various patients in different situations.

Course requirements and Regulations indicate that total study time would be 6-9 hours per week which may be too low an estimate. In order to accomplish all objectives it would take more curriculum time and more student evaluation to be certain that the students are able to comprehend all of the material in the textbook and be proficient in phlebotomy.

The outline of topics is comprehensive and nicely put together in related groupings. The modules can be correlated to chapter reading assignments in the textbook and homework in the workbook. I would also change the order of the

modules to introduce the student to collection equipment and techniques as soon as possible.

Student evaluation assessment should include reading and graded workbook assignments that encompass the module being studied that week. There should be weekly quizzes and 3-5 page papers on relevant and related topics. The final exam should count as a large part of the grade-probably half. The practicum is pass/fail and if the student fails the practicum, the student will fail the course no matter what the grade average of the student. The student will have two chances to pass the practicum.

The student will also have to have proof of health insurance, liability insurance, immunizations, criminal background check and drug screen before class begins.

After the students have completed this online course, they should be eligible to take one of the two predominant national certification exams for phlebotomy which should be the goal of this course. The reason for taking one of the top two national certification exams would mean that the student would be more marketable and would earn more money.

The two most recognizable and desirable by clinical agencies are:

1. ASCP requires 40 clock hours of classroom training and 100 clinical hours at an approved clinical site with 100 sticks.
2. AMT requires: Applicant shall have graduated from, or scheduled to graduate from, an academic course (or combined courses) of study in phlebotomy that includes a minimum of 120 didactic clock hours (or as required by state law). Also required are 50 successful venipunctures and 10 capillary sticks.

In summary, the course seems well put together but does need some additional work. A substantial amount of work will need to be done by the student including a 3 week internship commitment. Practice time with phlebotomy protocols and doing live sticks are critical to build a solid foundation for the student and should be performed weekly.