

Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does a CRC do?

A: Clinical Research Coordinators work directly on medical research and clinical trials. They assist the researcher (often referred to as the Primary Investigator or PI) with the behind the scenes work required for studies. They are often responsible for creation of study protocol, recruitment and tracking of study participants, gathering of patient information, entering and management of data, quality assurance and much more.

Q: Is there a certification required to be a CRC?

A: Some employers require CRCs to complete a professional certification that is available through professional organizations. Students who complete the program are eligible to sit for two such certification exams. More information is available in the MSTC catalog or from the program director.

Q: What if I already have a certificate, diploma or degree?

A: Students who have already completed college level work may be eligible to transfer credits in for use in this program. Most commonly, students transfer in courses such as medical terminology, anatomy and physiology and some general education courses. If you already have an associate's degree or higher, you may be eligible to transfer in all your general education courses. Please note that some general education courses may still be required as they are program specific.

Q: Why are there two steps to the admission process?

A: There are two steps in the admissions process for CRC because we would like to allow students to begin taking some of their general courses as soon as possible. By completing step one of the admissions process and becoming conditionally accepted to the program, students may begin taking some of the general education courses as well as some of the first program courses that do not have pre-requisites (i.e. medical terminology). After being conditionally accepted (by completing Step 1), students may also be eligible for financial aid.

Q: What is the Intent to Enroll form?

A: The final requirement of the Step 2 admissions process is to complete an Intent to Enroll form. This lets the College know that you have completed all the Step 2 requirements and are ready to start your core program classes. Be sure to attach any documents required as evidence of completing the Step 2 requirements with your form. Please note that some programs do not have spots immediately available in core classes.

Q: Is there a waiting list for CRC?

A: As of April 2011, there are immediate openings for students interested in the CRC program in the next semester.

Q: Can this program be completed entirely online?

A: Most of this program can be completed entirely online, however the clinical experience is completed on-site at a healthcare facility conducting research. Also, the CRC Lab and Clinical Procedures course has required in-person sessions. If you are enrolling in this course from somewhere outside the MSTC district, we will help you identify a course that can be substituted for this requirement but available in close proximity to your location.

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Q: Where do CRC students complete their clinical experience?

A: Students complete their clinical at various hospitals, clinics and research facilities throughout Wisconsin, however clinical sites can be identified in other locations to accommodate students outside the state. The practicum course is a non-paid clinical experience. For further information, please contact the Program Director.

Q: Do I need to attend Smart Start (college orientation)?

A: Students are *highly encouraged* to attend MSTC's college orientation program known as Smart Start. Students learn how to use the college's technology including their student account (MyMSTC). Participants also learn how to register for classes and about many of the services available to students. Sometimes students receive a second invitation to participate in Smart Start when they complete their Intent to Enroll form and are officially accepted to their program. It is only necessary to participate in Smart Start one time.

Q: Do I need to attend Program Orientation?

A: Program orientation for CRC is completed by students online and is *required*. Approximately two to three months before you begin taking "core" program classes you will receive information on how to complete the online orientation. The program orientation provides another overview of the program and its curriculum. It also helps to ensure you understand the policies and procedures of the program. The program also offers a "Meet and Greet" event in-person each fall to allow students to meet one another and their instructors. Participants also learn more about working about the profession from practicing CRCs. Students are highly encouraged to attend.

Q: What is clinical health work?

A: Students enrolling in health programs that require clinical experiences must document some information about their health including their record of immunizations for certain communicable diseases. This information is required by our clinical affiliates (sites where you will complete your clinical). Several months prior to clinical, students participate in an online health work orientation that provides details on the information you will need to provide. If you would like to get started early on this process, you can begin to gather documentation of immunizations you received as a child starting at age 1.

Q: Is it true that health work can be expensive?

A: Documenting your immunization history is usually free as long as you know where you received your immunizations. Some students may have had their immunizations tracked within RECIN (Regional Early Childhood Immunization Network) that was implemented in central and northern Wisconsin in 1994. If you know you will be unable to provide documentation for immunizations, please be aware that you will need to have lab work (called titers) drawn to measure whether or not you are immune to the diseases. Titers are usually the most expensive part of the health work process so you are encouraged to locate the documents for your immunizations if at all possible. Unfortunately, health care agencies are unable to accept a history of the disease (i.e. having had the chicken pox at age 5) as evidence of immunity so a titer must be drawn for individuals who were not immunized due to a history of the disease. Although sometimes costly, health work is done to help ensure your safety and the safety of your patients. These documents will also be needed when you begin your career as a health profession so it is an investment in your future. There are some lower cost options for students to explore related to completing health work. Please see the health and service administrative assistant at the Marshfield campus for details. Specific health work requirements will be presented to you the semester before you enroll in clinical.