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.

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: Is there a waiting list for CRC?
A: There are immediate openings for students interested in the CRC program. Students may begin their coursework in the spring or fall.

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, General Anatomy and Physiology and Microbiology courses have required in-person sessions. If you are enrolling in this course from somewhere outside the MSTC district, we will help you identify courses that can be substituted for these requirements but are available in close proximity to your location.

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.

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.

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.

Q: What is clinical health work?
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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). Students complete the required health work using a private vendor called Certified Background. There is an additional fee for this service that is the responsibility of the student.