The Profession
Cytotechnology is the microscopic study of cells for evidence of disease, such as cancer. Many other conditions, including viral and bacterial infections, also are identified using cytological techniques. The field is perhaps best known for the "Pap test," an evaluation of cells from the uterine cervix, but cytotechnology techniques can identify precancerous or cancer cells in virtually any area of the body.

Cytotechnologists evaluate cell samples that have been shed normally, scraped from the body, or aspirated with a fine needle. Cytotechnologists are trained to notice subtle changes in cells so they can accurately identify precancerous, malignant, and infectious conditions.

Career opportunities for cytotechnologists are good. Jobs are open in both rural and metropolitan areas in all regions of the country. Positions are available in diagnostic cytology, as well as in research, education, and administration.

Cytotechnologists are employed in hospital laboratories, universities, and private laboratories. After further study, you may advance to positions such as supervisor or educator. Opportunities in research, particularly on subjects pertinent to clinical diagnosis, may be available depending on where you are employed.

According to the American Society of Clinical Pathology, the average annual salary for mid-career cytotechnologists is $61,235. [data from http://labmed.ascpjournals.org/content/42/3/141.full.pdf+html]

Applying to the Cytotechnology Capstone
Your application and all supporting documentation must be received at Mayo School of Health Sciences by March 1 of the year you wish to begin classes. Early application is encouraged.

Step 1 – Complete the online application
- Go to https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=mayo-ghr.
- After you create an account and/or log-in, select "Application for Admission."
- Include the non-refundable $35 application fee with your online application (payable by credit card).

Step 2 – Include these documents with your application
- Official transcripts of all college and/or university credits
  Transcripts must be received in the original sealed envelope from the school.
- Three letters of recommendation
  Letters may be submitted as part of the online application.
  If the letters are completed off-line, they must be received in a signed sealed envelope.
- Send the required materials listed above in one envelope to:
  Mayo School of Health Sciences
  Siebens Medical Education Building 11
  200 First Street SW
  Rochester, MN 55905

After the online application process – All applicants must be competitive and meet the standards set by MSHS to be offered an interview. MSHS will make the final selection of students to complete the capstone. UMR students are not guaranteed interviews. Appointment letters are mailed in late March. Your reply is requested within two weeks.

Contact Information
For information about the Cytotechnology Program:
Jill Caudill, Program Director
Cytotechnology
Mayo School of Health Sciences
caudill.jill@mayo.edu | 507-284-3678
www.mayo.edu/mshs

For information about BSHS capstones:
Jenny Hegland, Capstone Coordinator
University of Minnesota Rochester
jhheglan@r.umn.edu | 507-258-8229
www.r.umn.edu
Cytotechnology Certificate/Capstone Curriculum
Total of 34 credits

Summer/Fall Semester of Senior Year – 17 credits
CLI 4711  Capstone Reflections I (1 cr)
Cyto GP  General Principles of Cytology (2 cr)
Cyto GYN  Gynecologic Cytology (4 cr)
Cyto AGYN  Advanced Gynecologic Cytology (3 cr)
Cyto PULM  Pulmonary Cytology (3 cr)
Cyto URIN  Urinary Cytology (2 cr)
Cyto EFF  Effusion Cytology (2 cr)

Spring Semester of Senior Year – 17 credits
CLI 4712  Capstone Reflections II (1 cr)
Cyto GI  Gastrointestinal Cytology (1 cr)
Cyto FNA  Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology (6 cr)
Cyto CLIN  Clinical Cytology (5 cr)
Cyto LabOp  Laboratory Operations (2 cr)
Cyto IPROJ  Independent Projects (2 cr)

Note: Students must complete all required courses to receive a Certificate in Cytotechnology from MSHS. The Cytotechnology Program runs from July to mid-June. MSHS will thus require attendance during the summer. This may impact student financial aid. While all courses can count towards the UMR Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, students may accumulate more than 120 credits. Students enrolled in the Cytotechnology Program will be able to participate in the May UMR graduation ceremony; however UMR will not award degrees until the students have successfully completed the MSHS coursework in mid-June. UMR student success coaches will work with interested students early in their academic planning in order to minimize these challenges.

About the Cytotechnology Capstone
The Cytotechnology Capstone is an educational collaboration between the University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) and Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS).

Mayo School of Health Sciences in Rochester, Minnesota, offers a 12-month program in cytotechnology. High-quality didactic and clinical experiences are provided to create well-rounded, fully competent cytotechnologists. Students learn how to collect cells, prepare cellular specimens, and use a microscope to interpret specimens. Students may apply to complete this program as their U of M Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences capstone.

Upon successful completion of required coursework, students receive a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences degree from UMR and a certificate in Cytotechnology from MSHS. Graduates are eligible to take the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification examination.

All courses originate in Rochester. Academic coursework is offered at UMR or MSHS and is coordinated with clinical rotations at Mayo Clinic to optimize the learning experience.

Prerequisite Coursework
Students complete lower-division courses at the University of Minnesota Rochester or at regionally accredited colleges and universities. Students must also complete all University of Minnesota liberal education and theme requirements. The following list of prerequisites must be completed in or progress before application to the program:

• Three years (90 semester or 120 quarter hours) in an affiliated college or university
• Twenty semester (or 30 quarter) hours in biology and/or the biological sciences — including courses such as general biology, cell biology, physiology, anatomy, histology, bacteriology, parasitology, zoology, embryology, and genetics
• Eight semester (or 12 quarter) hours in chemistry
• Three semester (or four quarter hours) in basic mathematics
• Cumulative grade point average should be at least 2.75 (4.0 scale). Applicants are not selected based on grades alone.

Accreditation
The MSHS Cytotechnology Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. The College of Medicine, Mayo Clinic is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Higher Learning Commission. UMR is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission through the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

Faculty
Mayo School of Health Sciences draws its faculty from Mayo Clinic’s clinical, scientific, and technical staffs. They are chosen for their commitment to teaching as well as clinical practice and/or research. Many have published and lectured extensively and are highly regarded in their field. Students will have direct access to these individuals throughout their training, allowing them the opportunity to learn directly from some of today’s best practitioners.

University of Minnesota Rochester faculty are committed to the development of integrated curricula and working closely with colleagues from Mayo School of Health Sciences to design technology-enhanced courses that address current issues and trends relevant to the health care industry.