

MLT Program Essential Functions

Essential Functions

These are the physical abilities that a student must be able to perform to be successful throughout the program curriculum and the profession.

Essential Observational Requirements:

The MLT student must be able to:

- Observe laboratory demonstrations in which biologicals are tested for their biochemical, hematological, immunological, microbiological, and histochemical components.
- Characterize the color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of biologicals, reagents or chemical reaction products. Employ a clinical grade binocular microscope to discriminate among the structural and color (hue, shading, and intensity) differences of microscopic specimens.
- Read and comprehend text, numbers, and graphs displayed in print and on a video monitor.

Essential Movement Requirements:

The MLT student must be able to:

- Move freely and safely about a laboratory.
- Reach laboratory bench-tops and shelves, patients lying in hospital beds or patients seated in specimen collection furniture.
- Travel to numerous clinical laboratory sites for practical experience.
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting, over several hours.
- Maneuver phlebotomy and culture acquisition equipment to safely collect valid laboratory specimens from patients.
- Control laboratory equipment (i.e., pipettes, inoculating loops, test tubes) and adjust instruments to perform laboratory procedures.
- Use an electronic keyboard to operate laboratory instruments and to calculate, record, evaluate, and transmit laboratory information .

Essential Communication Requirements:

The MLT student must be able to:

- Read and comprehend technical and professional materials.
- Follow verbal and written instructions in order to correctly and independently perform laboratory test procedures.
- Clearly instruct patients prior to specimen collection.
- Effectively, confidentially and sensitively converse with patients regarding laboratory tests.
- Communicate with faculty members, fellow students, staff, and other health care professionals verbally and in a recorded format.
- Independently prepare papers, prepare laboratory reports, and take paper, computer, and laboratory practical examinations.

Essential Intellectual Requirements for the Medical Laboratory Technology Program:

The MLT student must be able to:

- Possess these intellectual skills: comprehension, measurement, mathematical calculation, reasoning, integration, analysis, comparison, self-expression, and criticism.

- Be able to exercise sufficient judgment to recognize and correct performance.

Essential Behavioral Requirements:

The MLT student must:

- Be able to manage the use of time and be able to systematize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic constraints.
- Possess the emotional health necessary to effectively employ intellect and exercise appropriate judgment.
- Be able to provide professional and technical services while experiencing the stresses of task-related uncertainty and a distracting environment.
- Be flexible and creative and adapt to professional and technical change.
- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situation and proceed safely in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, self, and nearby individuals.
- Adapt to working with unpleasant biologicals.
- Support and promote the activities of fellow students and of health care professionals.
- Realize that the promotion of peers helps furnish a team approach to learning, task completion, problem solving and patient care.
- Be honest, compassionate, ethical and responsible.
- Be forthright about errors or uncertainty.
- Be able to critically evaluate his or her own performance, accept constructive criticism, and look for ways to improve.
- Be able to evaluate the performance of fellow students and tactfully offer constructive comments.

Essential Academic Requirements:

The MLT student must:

- Be able to obtain relevant information from lectures, seminars, laboratory sessions or exercises, clinical laboratory practicums and independent study assignments.
- Be able to use computers based examinations to assess and improve educational outcomes of the program.
- Sit for examinations, both written and oral, complete written assignments, deliver presentations, and perform required laboratory practice with and without supervision.