

Essential Functions

Applicants must meet certain essential functions as defined by NAACLS. If you feel that you do not meet these essential functions, careful consideration should be made and advisement received before entering the MLS Program. Essential functions are the abilities and essential functions that a student must be able to perform to be successful in the learning experiences and completion of the program.

Observational Requirements:

The MLS 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.

Movement Requirements:

The MLS 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.
- Perform fine hand manipulations with dexterity.

Communication Requirements:

The MLS 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.

Behavioral Requirements:

The MLS 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.