

# Committee on Medical Laboratory Education

## Essential Requirements for Medical Laboratory Sciences

**Essential requirements** are performance related and provide criteria so that potential applicants can independently evaluate their own ability to fulfill the expected requirements of a clinical laboratory scientist. These requirements are made available to facilitate a valid career choice by the potential applicant. The achievement of these cognitive and technical competencies should not endanger or compromise the health and welfare of other students, patients or allied health professionals and should not impose "undue hardship" upon the medical facility and/or its patients. ***If you are not sure that you will be able to meet the essential requirements, please consult with the Program Director for further information and to discuss your individual situation.***

The MLS student needs to be able to meet the following minimum Essential Requirements:

1. Ability to perform **visual requirements**:
  - a. read orders, policies, procedures, test results, charts, graphs, instrument printouts, number sequence, etc.
  - b. differentiate colors; e.g., test results, color codes, etc.
  - c. identify microscopic structures, cells, organisms
  - d. determine specimen suitability
2. Ability to perform **motor/movement requirements**:
  - a. respond appropriately to alarms, pagers, telephones
  - b. able and willing to work with blood/body fluids and with infectious organisms and to work with a wide variety of chemical reagents
  - c. obtain and measure specimens and reagents precisely
  - d. manipulate reagents, materials, instruments and analytical equipment according to established protocol
  - e. stand and/or sit for prolonged periods
  - f. comply with safety regulations; e.g., potential exposure to infectious organisms, body fluids, and toxic chemicals
  - g. perform duties requiring manual and finger dexterity; e.g., using a computer keyboard to accurately enter and transmit data and information in a timely manner, manipulating and adjusting gauges, operating specialized equipment, using microscopes, performing venipunctures
  - h. reach laboratory bench tops and shelves, patients lying in hospital beds or seated in specimen collection furniture
3. Ability to perform **communication/behavioral requirements**:
  - a. remain calm and exercise good judgment under stressful and/or emergency situations
  - b. communicate effectively in written/oral English with patients, fellow students, visitors, and healthcare workers by giving or receiving instructions, test results and various messages, verbally, in writing, by facsimile, or via computer
  - c. maintain a cooperative and productive working relationship with patients, fellow students, and healthcare workers
  - d. remain flexible, creative, and adaptive to professional and technical change
  - e. manage use of time and organizational skills to effectively complete professional and technical tasks
  - f. practice honest, compassionate, ethical and responsible conduct
4. Ability to perform **intellectual/conceptual requirements**:
  - a. possess these intellectual skills: comprehension, measurement, mathematical calculation, reasoning, integration, analysis, comparison, self-expression, and criticism
  - b. exercise sufficient judgment to recognize and correct performance deviations
  - c. prepare, review, and evaluate papers, laboratory reports, reagents and materials in order to meet the needs of various procedural standards

The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science requires us to define and publish "specific...technical standards" (essential requirements) "required for admission to the program" and to determine "that the applicants or students' health will permit them to meet the...technical standards..." (essential requirements).

**Please sign this form to indicate that you have read and understood the program's essential requirements (technical standards) and believe that you can meet them.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date