

Essential Functions

Essential functions represent the technical or non-academic requirements that all students must master to successfully participate in the VA Healthcare System MLS Program. Inability to meet any of these requirements will result in ineligibility or dismissal from the program. All students and, thereby, all applicants are expected to:

- Be able to easily recognize and read text, numbers, and graphics in print and on monitor screens.
- Be able to discriminate patterns and colors to identify reagents, media, stained cell preparations and physical properties of various body fluids, as well as delineate fine details of cellular structure and morphology when using a microscope.
- Be able to read, write and communicate in the English language to facilitate effective communication with patients, physicians, and all other members of the health care team.
- Be able to understand the normal speaking voice and discern audible instrument alert signals and timing devices, with or without auditory aids.
- Demonstrate sufficient manual dexterity to perform required tasks such as: performing phlebotomy safely and accurately; operating delicate instruments; manipulating tools; handling small containers of potentially biohazardous specimens, utilizing sample measuring devices; adequately focusing and manipulating a microscope, and using a keyboard.
- Bend, reach, sit and be sufficiently mobile to traverse about the laboratory and hospital corridors, including patient rooms.
- Have sound psychological health and stability, to effectively solve problems and to react effectively in stressful situations.
- Be able to recognize emergency situations and take appropriate action. Be flexible, creative, and adaptable to change.
- Use intellectual skills to calculate, interpret, analyze, reason, evaluate and explain data, solve problems, make critical judgements, and initiate corrective action as necessary.
- Maintain confidentiality and integrity.
- Follow directions, be able to make decisions, prioritize tasks, and work on multiple tasks simultaneously.
- Work independently and in cooperation with others.
- Work with potential biological, chemical, radiological, mechanical, and electrical hazards.
- Maintain personal hygiene and neatness appropriate to the professional workplace.
- Achieve regular, reliable and punctual attendance at clinical site and lecture sessions.

Admitted students are expected to abide by the [Code of Ethics of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science \(ASCLS\)](#) to uphold duty to Patients, the Profession and Society.

I have read the above **Essential Functions** and understand that they are required to succeed in the medical laboratory science program. I meet these requirements.

I understand that the inability to meet any of these requirements may result in ineligibility or dismissal from the School of Medical Laboratory Science.

I have read and understand the **ASCLS Code of ethics**. I pledge to abide by these ethics.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____