

## TECHNICAL STANDARDS

### Essential Functions in Medical Laboratory Science (MLS)

Technical Standards (Essential Functions) are the non-academic standards that a student must be able to master to participate successfully in the MLS program and enter clinical practice. Examples of this program's essential functions are provided below. *If you are not sure that you will be able to meet these essential functions, please consult with the Admissions Chair for further information and to discuss your individual situation.*

**Observation Skills:** A student in the MLS program must possess sufficient skills of observation to perform and interpret laboratory assays, including the ability to:

- Observe laboratory demonstrations in which lab procedures are performed on patient samples (i.e. body fluids, culture materials, tissue sections, and cellular specimens).
- Characterize the color, consistency, and clarity of biological samples or reagents.
- Use a clinical grade binocular microscope to discriminate among fine differences in structure and color (i.e. hue, shading, and intensity) in microscopic specimens.
- Read and comprehend text, numbers, and graphs displayed in print and on a video monitor.
- Recognize alarms.

**Motor and Mobility Skills:** A student must possess adequate motor and mobility skills to:

- Perform laboratory tests adhering to existing laboratory safety standards.
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work. This work may require prolonged sitting and/or standing, over several hours and some may take place in cramped positions.
- Reach laboratory bench tops and shelves, patients lying in hospital beds or patients seated in specimen collection furniture.
- Perform fine motor tasks such as pipetting, inoculating media, withdrawing a blood sample from a patient, handling small tools and/or parts to repair and correct equipment malfunctions, and transferring drops into tubes of small diameter.
- Use a computer keyboard to operate laboratory instruments and to calculate, record, evaluate, and transmit laboratory information.

**Communication Skills:** A student must possess adequate communication skills to:

- Communicate with individuals and groups (i.e. faculty members, fellow students, staff, patients, and other health care professionals) verbally and in recorded format (unaided oral speech, writing, typing, graphics, and telecommunication).

**Behavioral Skills:** A student must possess adequate behavioral skills to:

- 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 apply knowledge and exercise appropriate judgment.
- Be able to provide professional and technical services while experiencing the stresses of task-related uncertainty (i.e., ambiguous test order, ambivalent test interpretation), emergent demands (i.e. "stat" test orders), and distracting environment (i.e., high noise levels, crowding, complex visual stimuli)
- Be flexible and creative and adapt to professional and technical change.

- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situations and proceed safely in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, self, and nearby individuals.
- Adapt to working with infectious and possibly unpleasant biological specimens.
- Support and promote the activities of fellow students and of health care professionals. Promotion of peers helps furnish a team approach to learning, task completion, problem-solving, and patient care.
- Be honest, compassionate, ethical, and responsible. The student must be forthright about errors or uncertainty. The student must be able to critically evaluate her or his own performance, accept constructive criticism, and look for ways to improve (i.e. participate in enriched educational activities). The student must be able to evaluate the performance of fellow students and tactfully offer constructive comments.
- Show respect for individuals of different age, ethnic background, religion, and/or sexual orientation.
- Exhibit professional behavior by conforming to appropriate standards of dress, appearance, language and public behavior. (For example, body piercing other than ears and visible tattoos are **not** considered professional appearance. This includes tongue piercing.)
- Not wear artificial nails and nail tips for reasons of infection control.

**Office of Disability Services**

The Office of Disability Services facilitates the process of academic accommodations for students with disabilities, and works in collaboration with the professional schools of the Health Sciences Center in an attempt to ensure full participation in all activities, programs, and services of the institution.

The Office of Disability Services should be contacted for all accommodation requests:

ods@lsuhsc.edu

<https://www.lsuhscc.edu/administration/academic/ods/>

*The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science requires us to define, publish and provide to prospective students' specific essential functions required for admission to the program and a procedure to determine that the applicants' or students' health will permit them to meet these Technical Standards/Essential Functions. Please sign this form to indicate that you have read and understood the program's Essential Functions and believe that you can meet them.*

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Print Name

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Applicant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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