

Essential Functions

The accrediting agency for the Medical Laboratory Science Program (the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences or NAACLS) mandates that students be informed of essential functions necessary to perform activities related to the major and the practice of medical laboratory science. In addition to academic qualifications, students must meet the physical and behavioral standards of the clinical year, with or without assistive devices. These essential functional requirements that must be mastered to successfully participate in the program and profession include:

- 1. Visual Skills** (with corrective lenses as needed) The student will be able to: read text, numbers and graphs in print or on a computer screen; use a microscope to distinguish elements in a patient sample whether stained or unstained as to size, structure, color and intensity; characterize the color, clarity, and viscosity of biological specimens, reagents, or chemical reactions.
- 2. Fine and Gross Motor Skills** (with assisting device if needed) The student will be able to: traverse about the laboratory and hospital corridors, including patient rooms (minimum width: 3 feet); palpate veins and perform venipunctures; lift and transport containers weighing up to 25 pounds; manipulate laboratory devices (pipettes, syringes, test tubes, specimens, reagents, and analytical equipment) with speed and accuracy without compromising patient or employee safety; streak an agar plate without tearing surface of the agar; reach instruments, bench tops, and equipment to perform duties; travel to healthcare facilities to report in a timely manner for clinical rotations and lecture; perform program functions over an 8 hour day that may include frequent standing or walking, frequent sitting, and frequent reaching, bending, kneeling and crouching each hour.
- 3. Communication Skills** (both oral and written) The student will be able to: read, write, interpret and communicate proficiently using English so that communications can be given to and received from coworkers and patients in a confidential, effective, efficient and sensitive manner; hear (with assisting device if needed) and respond to the normal speaking voice and audible instrument alert signals; deliver oral presentations; use computer software and internet programs.
- 4. Cognitive Skills** The student will be able to: utilize course objectives; work from written and/or verbal instructions in a timely manner; work under strict time constraints; recognize emergency situations and take appropriate actions; judge, comprehend, make calculations, reason, analyze, synthesize, integrate and apply information in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains of learning to solve problems and evaluate work; complete program requirements.

5. Environmental Requirements The student will be able to: work in an environment with potentially infectious materials (HIV, Hepatitis, various microbes) and toxic or irritating chemicals that require special safety precautions, additional safety education, and health risk monitoring; receive a Hepatitis B Vaccine series; provide proof of recent immunizations against infectious diseases; pass a pre-admission physical examination by St. Elizabeth Healthcare; pass a pre-admission drug screen; submit to annual testing for tuberculosis; maintain general good health and self-care in order not to harm the health and safety of self, staff and patients; submit proof of current enrollment in a health insurance plan.

6. Behavioral Skills The student will be able to: perform the required tasks in a fast-paced, stressful environment that includes instrument noise, time constraints, emergency situations, persons working in close proximity, unpleasant odors and sights, pathogens, blood, and body fluids; recognize and respond to safety hazards to minimize the risk to self and others; demonstrate sufficient psychological stability and maturity to effectively handle the rigors of a demanding clinical internship; interact with students, staff, and patients in a professional, tactful, honest, and compassionate manner; maintain patient confidentiality at all times; follow all of St. Elizabeth School of Medical Technology and St. Elizabeth Healthcare student and employee policies; demonstrate respect to all people without showing bias or preference on the grounds of race, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or disease.

I have read the above Essential Functions and fully understand them. Any questions that I have concerning them and how they apply to me have been answered by program representatives to my satisfaction. It is my belief that I can satisfy each of the above Essential Functions based on my existing skills and abilities, or through the use of corrective devices.

I understand that the inability to meet any of these requirements in practice may result in non-admission or dismissal from the St. Elizabeth School of Medical Technology.

Student Signature

Date

Student Printed Name