

Medical Technology Program
Department of Laboratory Medicine, University of Washington
Essential Requirements for Admission, Retention, and Graduation
Revised July 2008

Introduction. The Department of Laboratory Medicine has a responsibility for the welfare of the patients treated or otherwise affected by students enrolled in the Medical Technology Program, as well as for the welfare of students in the educational programs of the Department. In order to fulfill this responsibility, the Department has established minimal essential requirements that must be met (with reasonable accommodation if necessary) in order to be admitted to the Medical Technology Program, to continue to participate in the program, and to graduate.

The education of a Medical Technologist (MT) requires assimilation of knowledge, acquisition of skills, and development of judgment. The curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Medical Technology from the University of Washington requires students to engage in diverse, complex, and specific experiences necessary for the acquisition of essential skills and functions. Unique combinations of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, physical, and social abilities are required to satisfactorily attain these essential requirements. In addition to being necessary for the successful completion of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Medical Technology, attainment of these essential requirements is necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, fellow students, faculty, and other health care providers.

Essential requirements necessary for competence in the Medical Technology Program curriculum include, but are not limited to, the following areas: fine and gross motor functions, sensory, communication, emotional maturity, application skills, professional skills, dealing with risk exposure, and attendance. These abilities are in addition to academic standards and have been developed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (PL101-336) and the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

Fine and Gross Motor Functions. The student should have sufficient motor function in order to execute movements required to provide complete and accurate diagnostic test results. The student must be able to:

- Habitually practice lab safety including selecting and wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting or standing, over several hours.
- Reach laboratory bench tops and shelves, patients lying in hospital beds or patients seated in specimen collection furniture.
- Demonstrate sufficient upper body muscle coordination to practice safe specimen and reagent handling.
- Competently manipulate specimens, manual, and automated instruments necessary to produce accurate diagnostic test results.

Sensory Skills. The student must be able to:

- Use sensory skills to acquire and apply information presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and clinical laboratory sciences.

Communication Skills. The student must be able to:

- Follow verbal and written instructions in order to correctly and independently perform laboratory test procedures.
- Effectively communicate in written and spoken English in order to transmit information to other students, faculty, staff, patients, and other members of the healthcare team.
- Read for comprehension technical and professional materials.
- Work independently to prepare laboratory reports; take paper, computer, and laboratory practical examinations.

Emotional Maturity. The student must be able to:

- Adapt to changing and potentially stressful environments.
- Exhibit professional behavior with patients, students, faculty, staff, and other healthcare professionals.
- Examine and change personal behavior when it interferes with productive individual or team relationships.

Application Skills. The student must be able to:

- Apply the following cognitive abilities to lab activities requiring: measurement, reasoning, comparison, self-expression, and criticism.
- Work accurately, efficiently, and safely under stress.
- Prioritize tasks.
- Accept responsibility for work performed independently and as a team member.
- Exercise judgment to recognize and correct performance.
- Apply knowledge, skills, and values learned from previous course work and life experiences to new situations.
- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situations to work safely in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, self, and others.
- Consistently practice universal safety precautions in the lab.

Professional Skills. The student must be able to:

- Demonstrate professional attributes that include integrity, honesty, responsibility, and tolerance.
- Acknowledge errors or uncertainty.
- Critically evaluate his or her performance, willingly accept criticism, and look for ways to improve.
- Show respect for self and others.
- Arrive at the student laboratory on time, prepared for the lab exercise that day and begin work promptly.
- Call or send an e-mail message in a timely fashion when an illness or emergency delays or prevents arrival in the laboratory.
- Project an image of professionalism through dress, personal hygiene, and grooming.
- Follow HIPAA/Patient Confidentiality policies.
- Make correct judgment(s) in seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner.

Risk Exposure. The student must be able to work safely with the following:

- Organisms that may be infectious.
- Blood and body fluids that may contain infectious agents.
- A wide variety of chemical reagents.

Attendance. In the clinical year, the student must be able to attend assigned rotations in the clinical laboratory full-time, 40 hours per week, in addition to other academic requirements.

Adapted, in part, from: Fristma, GA, Fiorella, BJ, and Murphy, M. Essential Requirements for Clinical Laboratory Science. Clin Lab Sci. 1996;9:40-43 and Katz, JR, Woods, S, Cameron CA, and Milam, S. Essential qualifications for nursing students. Nurs Outlook 2004;52:277-88.

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Please sign and date this form and return it to the Medical Technology Program with your completed application packet. If you have questions about any of the Essential Requirements, please contact the Medical Technology Program Advisor at (206) 598-2162.

I certify that I have read and understand the University of Washington Medical Technology Program's Essential Requirements for admission, retention, and graduation. I believe that I will be able to meet each of these requirements (with reasonable accommodation if necessary).

Signature

Date

Printed or Typed Name

Applicants who require accommodation in order to meet these requirements should contact the University of Washington Disability Resources for Students (DRS) after they have been accepted into the program.

Disability Resources for Students (Seattle)
448 Schmitz Hall, Box 355839, Seattle, WA 98195-5839
206-543-8924 (V/TTY)
206-685-8379 (FAX)
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