

South Central College

Essential Requirements for Clinical Laboratory Science Education

Introduction

The Associate of Applied Science Degree (AAS) in the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) and certificate in the Phlebotomy programs are recognized as broad undifferentiated degrees requiring the acquisition of general knowledge and basic skills in the clinical laboratory.

Policy

Faculty in the MLT/Phlebotomy programs have a responsibility for the welfare of the patients treated or otherwise affected by students enrolled in either of these two educational programs, as well as for the welfare of students enrolled in these programs. In order to fulfill this responsibility, the MLT/Phlebotomy department has established minimum essential requirements that must be met, with or without reasonable accommodations, in order to participate in the programs and graduate. The MLT and Phlebotomy programs, as part of South Central College (SCC), are committed to the principle of equal opportunity. The programs do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran' status, status with regard to public assistance, or disability.

Admission and Retention

Admission and retention for the MLT/Phlebotomy programs are based not only on prior satisfactory academic achievement, but also on non-academic factors which serve to ensure the student can complete the essential requirements of the academic programs for graduation. Essential requirements, as distinguished from academic standards, refers to those cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities that are necessary for satisfactory completion of all aspects of the curriculum, and for the development of professional attributes required by the faculty of all students at graduation. The following essential requirements have been developed in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (PL 101-336), and with the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

Essential Observational Requirements

The MLT and Phlebotomy programs curriculum require essential abilities in information acquisition.

- The student must have the ability to master information presented in course work in the form of lectures, written material, and projected images.
- The student must have the cognitive abilities necessary to master relevant content in basic science and clinical courses at a level deemed appropriate by faculty.
- Additional characteristics include:
 - use near vision and depth perception to read procedures, printouts, computer screens, markings on equipment
 - Be able to distinguish macroscopic and microscopic features (structure and color hue, shading, and intensity)
 - characterize the color, consistency, and clarity of biological specimens or reagents
 - have a sense of touch and temperature discrimination sufficient to perform laboratory testing
 - Perform testing safely, accurately and in a timely manner

Essential Movement Requirements

The student must be able to or have the ability to:

- Move around in the laboratory facility—campus/clinical site.
- Have sufficient upper body coordination to practice safe specimen handling.
- Perform delicate manipulation on specimens and instruments if necessary, for complete and accurate diagnostic test results.
- Use a rubber bulb to draw liquid into a calibrated pipette and use a gloved finger to control the release of liquid to within 1 ml of a fixed point on the pipette.
- Lift and remove objects, e.g., load individual tubes onto an analyzer, and move test tube racks from one bench to another.

- Isolate bacteria by smoothly moving a loop (a 6-inch wire with a looped end) over the surface of agar (gel) culture plate without tearing the surface of the agar.
- Discern blood vessels in order to perform venipuncture techniques.
- Handle specimens such as blood, other body fluids, and organisms that may be potentially infectious.
- Work with a wide variety of chemical reagents.

Essential Intellectual Requirements

The student must possess certain intellectual requirements to successfully complete the MLT/Phlebotomy programs. These include:

- Emotional stability for full utilization of their intellectual abilities.
- The ability to work accurately and safely under stress, e.g., work under time constraints; read and record numbers accurately; perform repetitive tasks; concentrate in distracting situations; and make subjective evaluations and decisions where mistakes have a high impact on patient care.
- Use problem-solving skills including the application of concepts
- Follow instructions/regulations
- Reaching a level of proficiency necessary to perform with minimal supervision

Essential Communication Requirement

- The student must be able to communicate (speak, write, and comprehend) effectively and professionally the English language in order to transmit information to members of the healthcare community.
- The appropriate communication may also rely on the student's ability to make correct judgment in seeking supervisory help and consultation in a timely manner

Essential Behavioral Requirements

- The student must possess attributes which include integrity, responsibility, and tolerance.
- He/she must be able to adapt to changing environments and be able to prioritize tasks.
- He/she must show respect for self and others, work independently, as well as with others, and project an image of professionalism.

The essential requirements identify admission, retention, and graduation requirements of applicants and students respectively. Graduates are expected to be qualified to enter into the clinical laboratory professions. It is therefore the responsibility of the student with disabilities to request those accommodations that he/she feel are reasonable and are needed to execute the essential requirements described.