Santa Monica College’s MLT Program

Essential Functions/Technical Standards

Technical Standards are the essential non-academic minimum requirements of the program that a student must meet, with or without reasonable accommodation, in order to successfully participate in the MLT program and graduate. The MLT Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexually orientation, age or disability.

Candidates for admission into the clinical laboratory technician program must possess abilities and skills in these areas including: observation, communication in English, motor function, intellectual, conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities and behavioral and social skills. Each program applicant to the program must attest that they can meet the abilities and skills listed below before entry into the program.

**Essential Skills Requirements**

**Observation:**
- An applicant must have the ability to participate actively in the classroom demonstrations, lectures, student laboratory and clinical practicum sessions. He/she must have the ability to see projected images and discriminate color variations in slide and computer format, as well as under a microscope. He/she must be able to read calibration lines on laboratory instruments and identify stained and unstained cellular components under the microscope. He/she must be able to characterize color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of biological compounds and/or chemical reaction. He/she must have the ability to read and comprehend written text, numbers, various graphs used in clinical analysis as presented by print or video presentation.

**Communication:**
- The applicant must be able to communicate in English by using verbal, non-verbal, and written methods with instructors, fellow students, patients and other members of the health care team. He/she must be able to write and transmit information clearly, accurately and efficiently. He/she must demonstrate the ability to follow verbal and written instructions relevant to laboratory operations and procedures. He/she must be able to independently analyze and prepare laboratory reports. He/she must be able to process information by collecting, interpreting, integrating data to make appropriate decisions.

**Motor Function:**
- The applicant must have sufficient motor function to perform a variety of basic and advanced laboratory testing. These may include manipulation of a variety of pipettes, microscopes, phlebotomy equipment, laboratory equipment and supplies.
- The applicant must be able to stand or sit for several hours at a time while performing continuous physical work.
- The applicant must be able to reach laboratory shelves and patients lying on hospital beds.
- The applicant must be able to travel to the different clinical sites for the practicum training.
- The applicant must demonstrate fine finger and manual dexterity necessary to operate laboratory equipment such as test tubes, inoculating loops, and pipettes as well as laboratory instruments and the computer keyboard.
Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:

• The applicant must be able to master basic science and clinical laboratory information presented in lecture and laboratory curriculum. He/she must also be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, evaluate and synthesize laboratory information/data. Problem solving and interpretation of patient laboratory data is critical to all laboratory practitioners. The applicant must be able to decide when to seek supervisory help in a clinical setting.

Behavioral and Social Skills:

• The applicant must be able to exercise good and sound judgment in the lecture, laboratory, and clinical settings. He/she must be able to complete tasks on time in mature, sensitive, and effective manner with instructors, coworkers, patients and other members of the health care team. He/she must be able to work under both relaxed and stressful emergency situations, prioritize tasks, and be able to make correct judgments with regards to patient results. Applicants must be able to be flexible with scheduling and be able to adapt to changing environments in the laboratory. Other professional attributes include: dependability, self-motivation and initiative, maturity, confidentiality and concern for others.

These Essential Functions/Technical Standards identify the requirements for admission, retention, and graduation of applicants and students in the program. I certify that I have read and understand the entire document and that I meet each of them with or without reasonable accommodation.

Signature:_____________________________________________ Date:__________________

Print or typed name:__________________________________________________________________________

* Adapted with permission from DeAnza College’s MLT Program Director 03/2013 and from Fritsma, G.A., Fiorella B.J., and Murphey, M. Essential Requirements for Clinical Laboratory Science. CLS 1996. Vol 9, pp 40-43.