

## **Functional Ability Categories**

The following is a list of functional skills and abilities necessary for the student to perform the duties of a Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT). If you believe that you are lacking in any of these areas and will require outside assistance in order to succeed, it is your responsibility to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to receive assistance.

### **Vision**

The MLT student must be able to:

- observe laboratory demonstrations
- distinguish objects macroscopically
- use a microscope to discriminate among fine differences in structure and color (hue, shading, intensity) in microscopic specimens
- read text, numbers and graphs displayed in print and on video monitors

### **Communication**

The MLT student must be able to:

- clearly, effectively, confidentially, and sensitively converse with patients regarding laboratory test orders and specimen collection instructions
- communicate with instructors, peers, laboratory staff and other health care professionals by written or oral means
- communicate with patients and other health care professionals by telephone

### **Physical Ability**

The MLT student must be able to:

- move freely and safely about in a laboratory
- assist with lifting, carrying and pushing/pulling objects weighing up to 50 pounds
- perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting or standing, over several hours
- travel to clinical laboratory sites for practical experience
- reach laboratory bench tops and shelves, patients lying in hospital beds or patients seated in specimen collection furniture
- perform manual laboratory procedures requiring manual dexterity
- perform delicate manipulations on laboratory equipment and instrumentation
- use an electronic keyboard to operate laboratory instrumentation and calculate, record, evaluate and transmit data

### **Intellectual Ability**

The MLT student must be able to:

- read and comprehend technical and professional materials (textbooks, journal articles, handbooks and procedure manuals)
- perform basic and complex mathematical calculations
- interpret, comprehend and follow oral, written and diagrammatic instructions
- exercise sufficient judgment to recognize and correct errors

### **Environmental**

The MLT student must be able to:

- tolerate exposure to allergens (chemical substances)
- tolerate strong odors
- wear personal protective equipment: gloves, safety glasses, face mask/shield, protective clothing
- work with unpleasant and infectious biological specimens

**Emotional Stability**

The MLT student must be able to:

- project an image of professionalism
- perform laboratory duties in a stressful environment
- identify and respond to emergency situations
- adapt to changing healthcare environments
- organize work and manage use of time follow established safety procedures