MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM
SCHOOL OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE STUDENTS

SM-II-1.6
Revised: 01/2024, 01/2026

Student's Name: _____

Essential Observational Functions

- Observe laboratory demonstrations in which biological materials are tested for their biochemical, hematological, immunological, microbiological components.
- Characterize the color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of biologicals, reagents, or chemical reaction products.
- Employ a clinical grade binocular microscope to discriminate among fine structural and color differences of microscopic specimens.
- Read and comprehend text, numbers and graphs displayed in print and on a video monitor.

Essential Movement Functions

- Move freely and safely about the laboratory.
- Reach laboratory bench tops and shelves, and patients seated in specimen collection furniture.
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting over several hours.
- Maneuver phlebotomy and culture acquisition equipment to safely collect valid laboratory specimens from patients.
- Control laboratory equipment (i.e. pipettes, inoculating loops, test tubes) and adjust instruments to perform laboratory procedure.
- Employ an electronic keyboard to operate laboratory instruments and to calculate, record, evaluate and transmit laboratory information.

Essential Communication Functions

- Read and comprehend technical and professional materials (i.e. textbooks, journals, handbooks and instruction manuals).
- Follow verbal and written instructions in order to correctly and independently perform laboratory test procedures.
- Clearly instruct patients prior to specimen collection.
- Effectively, confidentially, and sensitively converse with patients regarding laboratory tests.
- Communicate with faculty members, fellow students, staff and other health care professionals verbally and in a recorded format.
- Independently prepares laboratory reports, and takes paper, computer and laboratory examinations.

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Essential Behavioral Functions

- Manage the use of time and be able to systematize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic constraints.
- Possess the emotional health necessary to effectively employ intellect and exercise appropriate judgment.
- Provide professional and technical services while experiencing the stresses of task-related uncertainty (i.e. ambiguous test ordering, ambivalent test interpretation), emergent demands (i.e. "stat" test orders) and distracting environment (i.e. high noise levels, crowding, complex visual stimuli).
- Be flexible and creative and adapt to professional and technical change.
- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment and situations and practice safety in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, self and nearby individuals.
- Adapt to working with unpleasant biologicals.
- Support and promote the activities of fellow students and of health care professionals. Promotion of peers helps furnish a team approach to learning, task completion, problem solving and patient care.
- Be honest, compassionate, ethical and responsible. The student must be forthright about errors or uncertainty. The student must be able to look for ways to improve. The student must be able to evaluate the performance of fellow students and tactfully offer constructive comments.

ATTENTION ALL APPLICANTS

Please read the Essential Functions carefully, complete the statement below, and return this form to Memorial Health System of Southwest Oklahoma School of Medical Laboratory Science, 3401 W. Gore Boulevard, Lawton, OK 73505.

I, _____, attest that I have read and understand the essential functions of the MHSSWOK Medical Laboratory Science Program, and I believe that I can perform these essential functions with or without accommodations.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

Class Year: _____