



Essential Functions of UNM Medical Laboratory Sciences Students

Students accepted in and graduating from the MLS program must meet the essential function requirements in order to successfully complete the MLS program

Communication

The successful student must be able to:

- Read and comprehend technical and professional materials.
- Follow oral and written instructions in order to correctly perform lab procedures.
- Communicate with faculty, fellow students, staff and other health care professionals orally and in written format.

Movement

The successful student must be able to:

- Move freely and safely about a laboratory.
- Reach lab bench tops and shelves.
- Travel to numerous clinical lab sites for practical experience.
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting over several hours.
- Operate lab equipment (including using pipettes, inoculating loops and test tubes).
- Operate a computer keyboard to operate lab instruments and calculate, record, evaluate and transmit lab information.

Observation

The successful student must be able to:

- Observe laboratory demonstrations in which biologicals (i.e., body fluids, culture materials, tissue sections, and cellular specimens) are tested for their biochemical hematological, immunological, microbiological, and histochemical components.
- Characterize the color, consistency, and clarity of biologicals or reagents.
- Employ a clinical grade binocular microscope to discriminate among fine structural and color (hue, shading, and intensity) differences of microscopic specimens.
- Read and comprehend text, numbers; and graphs displayed in print and on a video monitor.

Intellect

The successful student must be able to:

- Possess or perform these skills: comprehension, measurement, mathematical calculation, reasoning, integration, analysis and comparison.
- Be able to exercise sufficient judgement to recognize and correct performance deviations.

Behavior

The successful student must be able to:

- 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 use her or his intellect and to 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 a distracting environment (i.e., moderate noise levels, complex visual stimuli).
- Be flexible and creative and must be able to adapt to professional and technical change.
- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situations and proceed safely in order to minimize risk of injury to self and nearby personnel.
- Adapt to working with unpleasant biologicals.
- Demonstrate appropriate control of behavior and emotions.
- Complete all tasks with absolute honesty; perform tasks and record results without bias; be forthright about errors and uncertainty.

Social Skills

The successful student must be able to:

- Acknowledge and respect individual values and opinions in order to foster harmonious working relationships with colleagues, peers, and patients.
- Be honest, compassionate, ethical, and responsible.
- Be forthright about errors or uncertainty.
- Critically evaluate her or his own performance, accept constructive criticism, and look for ways to improve (i.e. participate in continuing education activities).
- Evaluate the performance of fellow students and tactfully give and receive constructive comments.
- Be capable of supporting and promoting the activities of fellow students and health care professionals.