



ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES STUDENTS

Students enrolling in and graduating from a Clinical Laboratory Science program must meet the essential function requirements of the academic program and of the CLS profession. They must complete programs consisting of academic study and clinical laboratory experience. The CLOC student must possess the essential functions:

Observation

The CLOC student must be able to:

- Observe laboratory demonstrations in which lab procedures are performed on biological specimens (i/e/ body fluids, culture materials, tissue sections and cellular specimens)
- Characterize the color, consistency, and clarity of biologicals or reagents
- Use a clinical grade binocular microscope to discriminate among fine differences in structure and color (hue, shading, and intensity) in microscopic specimens.

Mobility

The CLOC student must be able to:

- Perform laboratory testing adhering to existing laboratory safety standards
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting and /or standing, over several hours
- Reach laboratory bench tops and shelves, patients lying in hospital beds or patients seated in specimen collection furniture
- Obtain patient specimens in a timely, safe, and professional manner (ie perform phlebotomy)
- Use laboratory equipment (ie pipettes, inoculating loops, test tubes) and instruments to perform laboratory procedures according to established laboratory guidelines
- Use a computer keyboard to operate laboratory instruments and to calculate, record, evaluate, and transmit laboratory information
- Troubleshoot and correct equipment malfunctions

Communication

The CLOC student must be able to:

- Read and understand technical and professional materials (ie textbooks, journal articles, handbooks, and instruction manuals)
- Follow oral and written instructions independently
- Clearly instruct patients regarding specimen collection
- Demonstrate sensitivity, confidentiality and respect when speaking with patients
- Communicate clearly, accurately, and tactfully with faculty members, student colleagues, staff and other health care professionals orally and in a recorded format (writing, typing, graphics, or telecommunication)

Intellect

The CLOC student must be able to

- Comprehend, measure, calculate, reason, integrate, analyze, and compare
- Recognize abnormal laboratory results (ie patient and QC) and take appropriate action
- Demonstrate critical-thinking and judgment skills appropriate to a given situation

Behavior

The CLOC student must be able to

- Perform multiple tasks within given time constraints and under stressful conditions while maintaining the ability to communicate clearly
- Be flexible and adapt to professional and technical change
- Recognize potentially hazardous situations and proceed safely to minimize risk to self and others
- Be a team player (ie support and promote activities of colleagues and other health care professionals)
- Accept and act on constructive criticism, critically evaluate self-performance, recognize and correct mistakes
- Participate in lifelong learning
- Be honest, compassionate, responsible and ethical