

PROGRAM IN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

TECHNICAL STANDARDS/ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR ADMISSION
AND PROGRESSION IN THE PROGRAM

All applicants are expected to meet the technical standards required to participate in this program and the profession.

Students in the Program in Medical Technology must possess the manual dexterity, hearing and visual acuity, and mobility necessary to obtain blood specimens, perform complex analyses, and use computer keyboards. They must be able to effectively communicate orally in English with individuals in person and by telephone.

The enclosed list of competencies and technical standards describe the activities performed by a medical technologist. Please read these documents carefully and be prepared to ask any questions you may have about them during the interview. You will then be asked to complete and sign the following statement:

I have read the technical standards required to participate in this program and understand them. Any questions I have concerning them have been answered by program representatives. I believe that I can satisfy each of the technical standards based on my existing skills and abilities, or through the use of corrective devices.

Signature of Applicant

Date

NOTE: PLEASE BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU TO THE INTERVIEW.

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TECHNICAL STANDARDS/ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION
AND PROGRESSION IN THE PROGRAM

- I. **Observation:** The applicant must be able to participate actively in all demonstrations, laboratory exercises, and clinical experiences of the program and comprehend the condition of all patients receiving clinical laboratory procedures performed by medical technologists. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision.

The medical technology student must be able to:

- observe laboratory demonstrations in which biological specimens are tested.
- characterize the color, consistency, and clarity of biologicals or reagents.
- use a clinical binocular microscope to discriminate among fine differences in structure and color (hue, shading, and intensity) in microscopic specimens.
- read and comprehend text, numbers, and graphs displayed in print and on a video monitor.

- II. **Communication:** The applicant should be sufficiently able to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. The applicant must be able to communicate effectively with patients. Communication includes not only speech but reading and writing. The applicant must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in English orally and in written form with all members of the health care team.

The medical technology student must be able to:

- read and comprehend technical and professional materials (i.e. textbooks, magazine and journal articles, handbooks, and instruction manuals).
- follow oral and written instructions in order to correctly perform laboratory test procedures.
- clearly instruct patients prior to specimen collection.
- effectively, confidentially, and sensitively converse with patients regarding laboratory tests.

III. Movement: The applicant must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients in preparing them for technical procedures and possess all skills necessary to carry out clinical laboratory tests and procedures. The applicant should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care to patients. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

The medical technology student must be able to:

- move freely and safely about a laboratory.
- perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting and standing over several hours.
- reach laboratory benchtops and shelves, patients lying in hospital beds, or patients seated in specimen collection furniture.
- manipulate phlebotomy equipment to collect laboratory specimens from patients.
- control laboratory equipment (i.e. pipettes, inoculating loops, test tubes) and adjust instruments to perform laboratory procedures.
- manipulate a computer keyboard to operate laboratory instruments and to calculate, record, evaluate, and transmit laboratory information.

IV. Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities: The applicant must be able to comprehend, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize. Problem solving and critical thinking are critical skills demanded of medical technologists that require all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the applicant must be able to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

The medical technology student must:

- possess the ability of self-expression.
- exercise sufficient judgment to recognize and correct performance deviations.

- V. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** The applicant must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and members of the health care team. The applicant must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are personal qualities that each applicant should possess.

The medical technology student must:

- be able to manage the use of time and systematize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic constraints.
- be able to 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. high noise levels, complex visual stimuli).
- 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 biological sights, smells, and sounds.
- be capable of supporting and promoting the activities of the health care team.
- be forthright about errors or uncertainty, be able to critically evaluate his/her own performance, accept constructive criticism, and look for ways to improve (i.e. participate in continuing education activities).