

## Essential Functions

Essential functions are knowledge, skill, and attitude requirements that are necessary for success as a medical laboratory scientist. The essential functions are divided into three categories:

Intellectual/Conceptual, Behavioral/Social, and Motor/Physical.

The categories are briefly outlined below:

<p><b>Intellectual and Conceptual</b></p>	<p>The medical laboratory scientist must be able to exercise independent judgment. This includes, but is not limited to, the following abilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure and calculate</li> <li>• Define problems</li> <li>• Analyze data</li> <li>• Develop and implement solutions</li> <li>• Reason and apply sound judgment</li> <li>• Question logically</li> <li>• Recognize and differentiate facts from opinion and illusion</li> <li>• Distinguish the logical from the illogical and relevant from irrelevant</li> <li>• Participate fully in all laboratory exercises and clinical internships in the program</li> <li>• Understand and follow directions</li> <li>• Apply learned skills and knowledge to new situations</li> <li>• Communicate effectively in formal English</li> </ul>
<p><b>Behavioral and Social</b></p>	<p>The medical laboratory scientist must be able to exhibit appropriate professional conduct that includes, but is not limited to, the following abilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulfill commitments and be accountable for actions</li> <li>• Self-direct, self-correct and be responsible for one's own learning and professional development</li> <li>• Deal with stress and maintain composure under pressure and time constraints</li> <li>• Willingly follow directions</li> <li>• Make decisions, prioritize tasks and work on multiple tasks simultaneously</li> <li>• Work both independently and in cooperation with others</li> <li>• Recognize emergency situations and react appropriately</li> <li>• Maintain professional decorum and composure</li> </ul>
<p><b>Motor and Physical</b></p>	<p>The medical laboratory scientist must be able to meet the demands of the program/job which includes, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and interpret laboratory endpoints such as color, cloudiness/turbidity, and texture Identify stained and unstained cellular components using a microscope</li> <li>• Have sufficient gross and fine motor skills to operate lab equipment and perform manual procedures such as pipetting, venipuncture, and plating microorganisms</li> <li>• Move freely and quickly from one location to another in such areas as clinical laboratories, patient rooms, treatment rooms, and elevators</li> <li>• Lift and move objects weighing 20 pounds</li> <li>• Possess a sense of touch and temperature discrimination</li> <li>• Work safely with potential chemical, radiological and biological hazards</li> </ul>