

## **Essential functions required of MLS students**

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These are the non-academic requirements of the practice of Medical Laboratory Science (MLS), comprising the physical, emotional, and professional characteristics necessary for the MLS professional. Demonstration of these professional entry-level competencies is required of all students in the Bellarmine University MLS program. Students will be continually evaluated for their ability to meet these standards throughout the professional curriculum.

### **Intellectual / Conceptual Students must be able to:**

- read and comprehend written materials
- follow directions and procedures accurately and completely
- use computer word-processing, presentation, and spreadsheet programs
- analyze data, define problems, and implement solutions
- use math to solve equations, convert units, and perform statistical analysis
- exercise independent judgment
- organize workspace and workflow
- recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, or situations, and respond safely in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, coworkers, and self
- communicate clearly in English (both orally and in writing) in a professional and tactful manner with patients, laboratory personnel, and other healthcare and non-healthcare co-workers

### **Motor / physical Students must be able to:**

- participate fully in all laboratory exercises and clinical internships in the program
- travel independently to clinical sites
- safely and appropriately handle body fluid specimens, biohazards, chemical hazards, reagents, and laboratory equipment
- perform delicate manipulations on specimens, instruments and equipment sufficient to meet specifications for accuracy and precision in diagnostic testing
- perform manual procedures, such as pipetting, plating of microorganisms, cell counts, and preparation/evaluation of peripheral blood smears, at specified levels of accuracy/precision and within acceptable time limits
- effectively and efficiently access and operate a full range of laboratory instrumentation
- differentiate colors, fine detail, and microscopic images

### **Behavioral / Social / Emotional Students must be willing and able to**

- show respect for self and others
- work independently and with others

- fulfill commitments
- assume responsibility for study, work, and actions
- maintain professional decorum and composure
- manage stress
- manage time and prioritize tasks
- work accurately and quickly even in stressful conditions.
- conform to appropriate professional standards of dress, appearance, language, and public behavior
- exhibit high ethical standards and adherence to strict codes of confidentiality of patient information