Technical Standards – Essential Functions

An individual intending to enter the Medical Laboratory Technician Program at Mercyhurst University for associates degree/certification, subsequently to enter the profession of Medical Laboratory Technician must have certain minimal technical skills and essential functions. It is the student’s responsibility to disclose any limitations that might interfere with his/her meeting these standards. The student must meet the academic and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in the program with or without reasonable accommodation. The MLT Department reserves the right to reassess the student’s ability to meet the technical standards at any time during the duration of their training and to act accordingly. The Mercyhurst University MLT program expectations include:

1. Sufficient visual acuity to read small font text; to read text presented on a video or computer monitor; to recognize and identify instrument communication lights and/or readouts; to distinguish cells under high power light microscopy by means of color differences, morphology, granulation patterns, etc.; to recognize differences in morphology for bacterial colonies growing on solid media; to identify color, clarity, and viscosity of body fluids, etc.

2. Sufficient proficiency in the English language to read and comprehend complex scientific literature, to write technical papers and reports, to communicate effectively orally with other English speakers. International students must comply with APSU requirements regarding the TOEFL exam (or equivalent measures).

3. Sufficient hand-eye coordination and manual dexterity to operate complex mechanical and electronic instruments (e.g., compound microscope, spectrophotometer, centrifuge, electronic balance, computer terminal, semi-automated pipetting device, etc.); and perform complex manual techniques (e.g., drawing blood, plating bacterial cultures, manipulating microscope slides, test tubes, etc.).

4. Sufficient sound judgment and coping skills to perform effectively and function independently in stressful academic and clinical laboratory environments.

5. Sufficient emotional health and psychological/social adjustment to cooperate effectively in group activities and assignments and to perform in an ethical manner with professional colleagues and patients.

6. Sufficient confidence and maturity, upon training, to draw blood from fellow students, faculty, and/or patients as well as to handle properly, using universal safety precautions, blood and other body fluids as a part of performing clinical laboratory analyses in a student or clinical laboratory environment.

Mercyhurst University North East (MUNE) ensures that qualified individuals with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in educational programs offered at the University. In higher
education, it is the student's responsibility to disclose their disability. Any student who has history of a diagnosed disability or suspects that he/she may have a disability is encouraged to contact the MUNE Disability Support Services office. The MUNE Disability Support Services office is responsible for coordinating accommodations and services for students with disabilities. Office: Ground floor Miller Hall