ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS
The DSU MLS program has established non-academic standards of performance defined as essential requirements. Through their conduct, MLS students represent Dixie State University and importantly the MLS profession and the MLS program. Accordingly, DSU MLS program students must possess knowledge, skills, and attitudes to work in a wide-ranging variety of settings where laboratory testing is performed. Consequently, to be admitted and maintain enrollment, participate in, and successfully complete the MLS program, a student must meet the program’s essential requirements. They are as follows:

Expectations of Mastery and Skill in Information Acquisition and Communication

A MLS professional program student must demonstrate the ability to acquire and to effectively communicate information in written and in spoken English. Specifically, a MLS program student must be able to:

1. Read for comprehension and follow verbal and written instructions, and thus demonstrate mastery of MLS coursework content at a level expected of a career-entry MLS.
2. Competently utilize technology to research, investigate, acquire and present information obtained by observation and experimentation.
3. Use strategies that minimize miscommunication.
4. At all times and in all circumstances, follow established procedures to safeguard protected patient information communicated by non-electronic and electronic means.

Expectation of Motor and Sensory Functions

A MLS professional program student must demonstrate sufficient motor and sensory function to execute movements required to carry out work assignments in the preanalytical, analytical, and postanalytical phases of laboratory testing. Specifically, a MLS program student must be able to:

1. Distinguish the physical attributes, including color, shape, and size, of objects both macroscopically and microscopically.
2. Demonstrate sufficient dexterity to manipulate specimens, laboratory tools, equipment and instrumentation including but not limited to computer touch-screens, keyboards and handheld calculators, necessary to obtain and to report test results by non-electronic and electronic means.
3. Show adequate mobility to attend to duties in the various locations of the medical laboratory work environment.
4. Use sensory skills to acquire and apply information presented by various means and media, including but not limited to tactile, visual and non-visual.
5. Perform sustained, often repetitive physical activity that may require sitting, standing and/or walking for prolonged periods of time.

6. Accurately read and record numbers, letters and symbols displayed in print whether transmitted through non-electronic, electronic or other technological media.

7. Demonstrate proficiency performing a wide range of tests in areas of the contemporary medical laboratory including but not limited to hematology, clinical chemistry, immunohematology, microbiology, molecular and emerging diagnostics.

Expectations of Professionalism

A MLS professional program student must be able to demonstrate an image of professionalism through behavior, speech, and grooming. Specifically, a program student must be able to:

1. Always adhere to medical laboratory safety protocols when working with various sample types including blood, urine, and other body fluids and tissues, with infectious organisms, and with hazardous chemicals.

2. Demonstrate the ability to work with focused attention on safety and accuracy whatever the work environment circumstances, and to objectively evaluate information and take responsibility for subsequent decisions when mistakes may have a high impact on patient care.

3. Adapt to changing work environments, maintain a professional demeanor, and remain focused despite distracting situations.

4. Demonstrate attributes that include integrity, responsibility, and tolerance.

5. Speak, act and perform all work in an ethical manner.

6. Show respect for self and others.

7. Work independently as well as actively engage cooperatively with others, performing professional obligations in a timely, responsible manner.

8. Prioritize tasks and accept responsibility for work performed independently and as a team member.

9. Assess his or her work performance, willingly accept constructive criticism, and look for ways to improve both knowledge and skill.