

MCSHS Histology Technician Program  
**Technical and Essential Functions**

With regard to **sensory/observational skills**, candidates for admission to the program must:

- Be able to observe demonstrations and actively participate in laboratory exercises as required in the curriculum
- Have visual acuity corrected to 20/40 and visual perception with respect to depth and color
- Have the ability to distinguish color intensity, hue and shading of microscopic specimens
- Visualize specimens through a microscope as well as identify and distinguish colors and tissue elements

Observation capabilities are proven through:

- Actively participating in all clinical rotations, laboratory exercises, and hands-on activities
- Analyzing patient specimens effectively

With regard to **physical and motor skills**, candidates for admission to the program must:

- Have sufficient motor function to operate/manipulate fine objects and maintain laboratory instruments
- Have dexterity with wrists, hands and arms, and dexterity with all fingers
- Possess eye-hand coordination and have the ability to engage in laboratory procedures which involve cutting, extending, fingering, grasping, holding, pinching, and pulling
- Have the ability to obtain and/or verify patient samples
- Possess sufficient stamina to tolerate physically taxing workloads, including sitting and/or standing at the histology workbench for prolonged periods of time
- Properly and safely handle chemicals, hazardous materials, sharp objects and manual and automated equipment
- Perform repetitive movements

With regard to **communication skills**, candidates for admission to the program must:

- Be able to communicate in English in oral and written form
- Have the ability to communicate by respectfully participating in discussions in a variety of educational settings (e.g. classroom, student and clinical laboratories).
- Be able to acquire information developed through classroom instruction, technical demonstrations/exercises, clinical experiences, independent learning, and consultation
- Have the ability to understand and complete reading assignments and to search and evaluate the literature
- Be able to complete written assignments and maintain written records
- Be able to use a computer for instructional curriculum and patient care activities

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With regard to **intellectual/conceptual, integrative and qualitative skills**, candidates for admission to the program must:

- Gain proficiency in the e-learning environment
- Utilize resources effectively and appropriately
- Develop independent study techniques
- Display professional behaviors through interaction with colleagues in a variety of settings (e.g. group learning activities, skill development, scope sessions and discussions)
- Display knowledge through verbal and written communication to peers and faculty
- Have the ability to measure, calculate, analyze, interpret, synthesize and evaluate data
- Have the ability to learn to prioritize, multitask and perform laboratory testing
- Have the ability to learn to make sound judgments and formulate appropriate troubleshooting decisions
- Have the ability to critically evaluate tissue specimens for quality and accuracy
- Have the objectivity and knowledge to understand tissue types and correlate this understanding with decisions made at the work station
- Must possess organizational skills and be able to solve one or more problems within specific time frames which are often short
- Have the ability to perform duties and assignments in a timely fashion while under stress and in a variety of settings
- Have the ability to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of anatomic, histologic and cellular structures

With regard to **behavioral/social (affective) skills and professionalism**, candidates for admission to the program must:

- Maintain patients' needs as a top priority
- Maintain academic honesty
- Display physical, mental and emotional health
- Demonstrate the ability to follow instructions/procedures with accuracy and precision
- Possess the ability to maintain intellectual and emotional stability and maturity under stress, while also maintaining appropriate performance standards
- Have the ability to manage time, organize workload and meet deadlines
- Be able to learn and exhibit professional attributes
- Adhere to safety guidelines and be able to comply with standards and regulations required by external agencies
- Have the ability to function as part of a team and to learn to assume and/or delegate responsibilities appropriately