NAACLS ESSENTIALS

NAACLS (the accrediting agency) requires that applicants be informed of the following "Essential Requirements" and that the applicant verify his or her ability to meet these requirements before being considered for entry into the school.

Behavior:

- be able to manage the use of time and be able to systematize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic constrains
- possess the emotional health necessary to effectively employ intellect and exercise appropriate judgment
- be able to provide professional and technical services while experiencing the stresses of task-related uncertainty (i.e. ambiguous test ordering, ambivalent test interpretation), emergent demands (i.e. "stat" test orders) and a distracting environment (i.e. high noise levels, crowding, complex visual stimuli)
- be flexible and creative and adapt to professional and technical change
- recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situations and proceed safely in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, self and nearby individuals
- adapt to working with unpleasant biologicals
- support and promote the activities of fellow students and of health care professionals. Promotion of peers helps furnish a team approach to learning, task completion, problem solving, and patient care
- be honest, compassionate, ethical and responsible. The student must be forthright about errors or uncertainty. The student must be able to critically evaluate his/her performance, accept constructive criticisms and look for ways to improve. The student must be able to evaluate the performance of fellow students and tactfully offer constructive comments

Communication:

- read and comprehend technical and professional materials (i.e. textbooks, journals, handbooks and instruction manuals)

- follow verbal and written instructions in order to correctly and independently perform laboratory test procedures
- clearly instruct patients prior to specimen collection
- effectively, confidentially, and sensitively converse with patients regarding laboratory tests
- communicate with faculty members, fellow students, staff and other health care professionals verbally and in a recorded format
- independently prepare laboratory reports, and take paper, computer and laboratory practical examinations

Observation:

- observe laboratory demonstrations in which biological materials are tested for their biochemical, hematological, immunological, microbiological components
- characterize the color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of biologicals, reagents, or chemical reaction products
- employ a clinical grade binocular microscope to discriminate among fine structural and color differences of microscopic specimens
- read and comprehend text, numbers and graphs displayed in print and on a video monitor

Movement:

- move freely and safely about a laboratory
- reach laboratory benchtops and shelves, and patients seated in specimen collection furniture
- perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting, over several hours
- maneuver phlebotomy and culture acquisition equipment to safely collect valid laboratory specimens from patients
- control laboratory equipment (i.e. pipettes, inoculating loops, test tubes) and adjust instruments to perform laboratory procedures
- employ an electronic keyboard to operate laboratory instruments and to calculate, record, evaluate and transmit laboratory information