

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS of the MEDICAL ASSISTANT STUDENT

Issue	Standard	Sample Tasks
Critical thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgement and professional behavior	Maintain confidentiality. Identify cause-effect relationship in clinical settings. Prioritize and flex with change. Follow a process from start to finish, utilizing sequential established steps.
Interpersonal skills	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds	Establish good rapport with patients, teachers, classmates, and coworkers. Be sensitive to needs of others.
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	Follow written and oral directions. Enter and retrieve data on a computer terminal.
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move quickly from place to place and maneuver in small spaces. Tolerance for walking, standing, stooping and bending. May need to maintain awkward positions for a prolonged time.	Assist with patient transfers. Maneuver and move quickly in examination rooms, labs, and hallways.
Motor skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care apparatus and diagnostic tools.	Type minimum 25 wpm. Calibrate and use equipment. Manipulate small specimen collection
Hearing assess patient needs.	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor warnings or procedure termination signals.	Recognize and respond to instrument equipment and Hear auscultatory sounds.
Seeing	Visual ability sufficient to monitor equipment and assess patient needs.	Observe patient responses. Read gauges and instrument printouts accurately. Discern variations in color and intensity.
Touching	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment	Palpate for veins with gloves on. Palpate for pulses.
Emotional endurance	Ability to work in high stress environment, respond to emergencies and maintain emotional control.	Calmly react to urgent situations.
Environmental safety	Ability to protect self and others from environmental risks and hazards.	Do frequent hand washing; use germicides and body fluid precautions.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR IF YOU SUSPECT YOU WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY PERFORMING TASKS SUCH AS THOSE GIVEN AS SAMPLES.