



College of Health Professions

Master of Science in Pathologists' Assistant Studies Program

Essential functions

Candidates for admission to the Pathologists' Assistant program at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) must possess the necessary physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities required to complete the curriculum successfully and meet the demands of a competent Pathologists' Assistant in clinical practice. These essential functions ensure that students can participate in all required classroom, laboratory, and clinical activities with or without reasonable accommodation. The program is committed to compliance with South Carolina state and federal regulations regarding reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Applicants are evaluated individually, and it is expected that they carefully review these standards and assess their ability to meet the expectations outlined.

I. Observation Skills

Candidates must demonstrate sufficient attention and proficiency in observation skills, using visual, auditory, and tactile abilities to participate fully in classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings.

Indicators:

- Ability to accurately observe and interpret information during lectures, laboratory sessions, and clinical rotations.
- Ability to identify relevant gross pathological findings in surgical and autopsy specimens.
- Ability to visualize and distinguish text, patterns, graphic representations, and histological slides under a microscope.

II. Communication Skills

Candidates must demonstrate effective verbal and written communication skills to interact with faculty, peers, pathologists, healthcare team members, and other professionals from varied backgrounds.

Indicators:

- Clear and intelligible articulation of information in spoken and written English.
- Ability to prepare and deliver accurate case summaries of gross surgical specimens and autopsy findings.
- Ability to document and dictate gross descriptions clearly, using appropriate terminology.

- Ability to interpret and respond to non-verbal cues in professional interactions.

III. Critical Reasoning and Intellectual Abilities

Candidates must demonstrate intellectual and critical reasoning skills necessary to acquire, interpret, and apply knowledge effectively.

Indicators:

- Ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, and integrate complex information.
- Ability to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and spatial arrangements of anatomical structures.
- Ability to apply clinical and pathological knowledge to solve problems and make informed decisions.
- Ability to process and prioritize large volumes of detailed medical, pathological, and scientific information efficiently.

IV. Motor and Sensory Function

Candidates must have adequate motor and sensory function to perform essential tasks required of a Pathologists' Assistant, including gross dissections and postmortem examinations.

Indicators:

- Coordination of fine and gross motor movements necessary for performing autopsy dissections and specimen preparation.
- Ability to operate standard laboratory instruments and equipment, including dissection tools, microscopes, and imaging systems.
- Physical stamina to perform extended periods of work, including prolonged standing, sitting, and moving between clinical workstations.
- Ability to respond quickly and appropriately to emergency situations in clinical settings.

V. Behavioral and Social Attributes

Candidates must demonstrate emotional resilience, professional behavior, and social skills necessary to work effectively in a demanding academic and clinical environment.

Indicators:

- Ability to maintain composure, adaptability, and emotional stability in stressful situations.
- Ability to exercise good judgment, demonstrate empathy, and interact professionally with patients, families, and healthcare team members.
- Ability to work collaboratively and maintain respectful and effective relationships with individuals from varied backgrounds.
- Ability to accept constructive feedback, self-reflect, and adjust performance to improve clinical and academic competence.
- Commitment to ethical principles, including confidentiality, honesty, and accountability.

Compliance with Essential functions

Students admitted to the Pathologists' Assistant program must affirm that they meet the program's essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodation, at the time of matriculation and throughout their enrollment. MUSC is committed to providing support and reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities as per applicable laws and policies.

These standards serve as prerequisites for entry, continuation, and graduation from the Pathologists' Assistant program, ensuring that graduates possess the skills necessary to practice competently and professionally in the field.