

Professional Conduct

Integral to the Clinical Laboratory Science profession is a concern for the safety and well-being of the clients receiving care; therefore, students enrolled in the Medical Laboratory Technician program at Saint Paul College accept the moral and ethical responsibilities that have been credited to the Clinical Laboratory Science profession. The Code of Ethics of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) sets forth the principles and standards by which clinical laboratory professionals practice their profession. The ASCLS Code of Ethics is the standard by which ethical conduct is guided and evaluated by the profession. The Medical Laboratory Technician program at Saint Paul College has an obligation to prepare Medical Laboratory Technicians who are accountable for the quality and integrity of the laboratory services they provide and who uphold the moral and ethical principles of the profession. Behaviors that violate academic, moral, and ethical standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cheating, plagiarism, falsification of either documentation or information
- Theft
- Unsafe behavior in a clinical setting
- Unprofessional behavior (verbal and physical)
- Failure to maintain confidentiality (HIPAA violation)
- Code of Conduct violation

The Medical Laboratory Technician program reserves the right to dismiss any student who does not meet the moral, ethical, or behavioral standards of the program. Students who have been dismissed from the Medical Laboratory Technician program for the above reasons are not eligible for re-admission. Additionally, Saint Paul College requires that all incidents that violate the College's academic integrity policy be reported to the Dean of Student Development and Services for comprehensive review and subsequent implementation of the consequences as outlined in the Student Handbook. All current and future students are expected to adhere to the policies and procedures of this student handbook as well as all policies of clinical agencies where the student is placed.

PATIENT/CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

HIPAA

The Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) Act requires that all protected health information be kept private and secure by all persons that handle, or have access to, that information. Since students, faculty, instructors, and staff use protected health information as part of the educational process (i.e. access to client health data to provide care and use of de-identified health data for educational assignments), they, too are bound by HIPAA regulations. Students may be required to complete a HIPAA training module prior to or at the beginning of the Clinical Practice course. Any violations of HIPAA regulations will result in disciplinary actions up to and including dismissal from the program depending on the severity of the violation.