

Note from a past student to a future student

Future School of Medical Technology Students:

Brace yourself- the hardest, most challenging, difficult, intense and satisfying year of school thus far is about to begin! The internship isn't "a walk in the park", so get ready now.

When told the internship year would be the most challenging school year to date, I didn't really take it to heart. But, seriously, it was! I would like to give you an example of my college life as an undergrad, and then again while in the internship: As an undergrad, I took a full course load each semester (15+ credits), was a member of the track and field team (gone every weekend), and held down a part-time job on campus (12 hrs/wk). I was no slouch! Since I handled those activities pretty well, I didn't figure the internship wouldn't be any different. Boy, was I wrong! Coming into the internship, I planned to get a part-time job (~20hrs/wk) as well as continue to participate on my college's track and field team. I am REALLY glad I didn't do either of those, because there honestly wasn't time!

I don't really know how to explain it better except to say, you will learn more in this one year of school than you did in all your undergraduate years put together. I have never studied more in my life than when in the internship! There's no time for extracurricular activities, that's how much work there is! You have a test/quiz practically every week, so there's never a day that you shouldn't be studying. So much information is being sent your way each day, if you don't go home and look at it daily, you'll be lost quickly! And remember, at the end of the internship year, you're taking the registry exam to become a licensed medical technologist, so decide right now whether you want to put the work in that's required to pass that exam, because it's no joke! Responsibility, accountability, and integrity are qualities that helped me to succeed here.

Responsibility means doing what you've been asked, even though you might not want to, with the best effort you can. Responsibility requires something of everyone, without it, things would never get done! So, do your part, and do it right!

Accountability goes hand in hand with responsibility. Accountability means being responsible for what you say and do. It allows you to take ownership of your success. If you study, you do well on exams, if you don't, you fail.....simple! You are accountable for your own actions!

Integrity means doing what is right, even if the wrong way is easier. Do what you know is right, and never compromise! Integrity means that you truly put time into crafting your skills. You never fall back on, "I didn't have time to study", or "that test wasn't fair", you accept the fact that you weren't prepared and do better next time.

Keeping those qualities in mind kept me going when the times got rough, and believe me they will get rough. I kept plugging away, realizing the goal I had set for myself: to graduate from the internship, pass the registry exam and enter the workforce as a licensed medical technologist. If you keep these things in mind, and get prepared for this next year, you will come out on the other side, not only a success, but a better person as well!

GOOD LUCK!

Holly Zehr, Class of 2008