

Note from a past student to a future student

Hello Future MT Students,

I am writing this letter as a former student who never realized what I was getting into when I started my Medical Technology clinical internship year. I completed my three years of traditional college and all my required courses before being accepted into the program. I never thought college was incredibly difficult, but I had to study a lot to get the grades I wanted.

When I was applying and finally accepted into an internship program, all I heard from my advisor and the program directors was that this coming year will be very intense with a ton of material being thrown at you at once. All I thought was, I got through college this far, how hard can it be? Well let me tell you, it was very intense and overwhelming at times. I studied everyday of my life for 11 months straight. It's not like college where you may have to cram for a couple tests this week then have a break next week. It is nonstop, no break learning process. Be prepared to look at your notes every chance you get; while watching television, while eating, while exercising. Unfortunately the only extracurricular activity an MT student has is studying. Just when you think you are in the clear, there are more projects and lab write-ups to complete. I'm not telling you this to discourage your future plans but only to prepare you mentally for what is to come. You must always be willing to give 100% and put the patient first. That quality will mold the best Med Tech. This year will help you to think through processes until they are fully understood, and are then able to be applied to the laboratory. Always think 'why' you are doing something. If you know why, you will be less apt to make mistakes but to question your work.

There are other qualities that need to be considered before starting your internship. It is very important to have the social skill set to be able to work well with others. As a laboratorian you must work as team. Remember, times may get stressful but try to work through it to solve the problem, do not get discouraged. Also, questions are good; if you don't understand, ask! All the knowledge is right at your fingertips with numerous experienced techs. One important lesson I learned is to listen to all of the techs suggestions in your clinical rotation. You may think they are just giving instructions because that is how it has always been done, but you will learn they always have a reason they do something. Most suggestions, great or small, should be followed so you don't have to learn the hard way.

I got through the program and graduated and so can you. After long hours of studying and lab work it has all paid off because as an entry level technologist you will actually feel prepared and confident in what you are doing. Always do your best and do what is right, after all, you are impacting someone's life.

GOOD LUCK!

Jenn, Class of 2009

