

MEDICAL CENTER

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Dear MTS Student,

I am writing this letter to you during the very end of my clinical year at WCA hospital. We graduate next Friday. This is our last week in the lab as students (a bittersweet feeling, heavier on the sweet!), so I am finishing up my rotation in Microbiology and finishing up all of my special studies/portfolio projects. Next week is review week and then we are done!

Anyways, I am having writer's block so I thought I would let you know a little bit about your upcoming year and offer some advice if I can. As you have probably already heard, you are now entering the most challenging year of your college career (insert rolling eyes here). I know what you are thinking because last August I did not understand the extent to which I would be tried and tested during the next 11 months. Don't fear, Jan and Michele will take good care of you and they will make sure you have everything you need to succeed and become excellent Medical Technologists. However, the outcome of this year will rely heavily on YOUR attitude, YOUR work ethic, and what YOU want to take away from this program. If you are going to do the bare minimum and just try to get by, Jan and Michele are not easily fooled and your lack of effort will show during second rotation. Just remember, every day you are at WCA hospital is a potential interview. Even if you do not intend to stay in Jamestown, the people you meet here and work with can and will be you're biggest advocates, supporters, and REFERENCES (hint hint) when you apply for jobs elsewhere.

Doing well in this program is not just about you. When you become a Medical Technologist, every sample you run is a REAL PATIENT and will affect a REAL PERSON'S life one way or another. Therefore, do the best you can now so that when you graduate you can do the best you can for your patients. Would you want your lab work to be completed by someone who does their best and really knows their stuff or by someone who is lazy and does the bare minimum??? Food for thought...

There is no way I can describe how you will feel this year. I always thought school was easy and I definitely was not mentally prepared for the program. You cannot procrastinate and do well this year. You will be tired. You will be stretched to your limits. The hardest part of it all is your family, friends, and significant others. They will not understand what you are going through. You will hurt their feelings, they will feel neglected sometimes, and all you can do is beg them to be patient with you. Let them know ahead of time that they will not be seeing much of you and that above all else you really need their support more now than ever before. When you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed, like you're drowning, anxious, exhausted, like giving up, happy, sad, excited or any other emotion just know that you have a laboratory full of people you can talk to. You won't know the techs real well at the beginning of the year, but second rotation you will become part of the family. Michele and Jan are always there to listen and help in any way that they can. You can also come talk to me if you ever need to (since I got hired and am sticking around ☺). If you have any questions, want some advice, want to know what to expect out of a rotation, or anything else feel free to ask.

Sooooo.... WELCOME! This year will be difficult, but just remember that you are not alone. This year will fly by. Get to know your classmates and become good friends. You will be seeing a lot of each so make it fun!

Danielle, Class of 2013

Graduate of Daemen College, Buffalo, NY