

EVMS School of Health Professions

Histotechnology Program Student Handbook

2023 –2024

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WELCOME FROM THE DEAN



Welcome to the EVMS School of Health Professions! The health professions programs offered by EVMS provide training at a progressive, nationally recognized graduate institution and in clinical and community facilities throughout the Hampton Roads area. We are proud to offer a diverse mix of programs that use state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories essential to the educational process. All programs in the School of Health Professions that are eligible have been individually accredited, and all adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards. EVMS has affiliations with many community partners, including rural and urban clinics, modern hospitals, and other health-care settings. Our faculties have advanced degrees in their area of expertise, supplemented by many years of professional experience in their respective disciplines. Our students are of the highest caliber, and consistently achieve highly competitive scores on licensing and related examinations.

I wish you the best of luck in achieving your professional and educational goals.

Sincerely,

C. Donald Combs, PhD
Vice President and Dean of the School of Health Professions
Professor of Health Professions

BACKGROUND

The EVMS School of Health Professions (SHP) provides an administrative structure for the following academic programs:

- Art Therapy and Counseling (MS)
- Biomedical Sciences (PhD)
- Biomedical Sciences Research (MS)
- Clinical Psychology (PhD)
- Contemporary Human Anatomy (MS)
- Doctor of Health Sciences (DHSc)
- Healthcare Administration (MS)
- Histotechnology (MS)
- Laboratory Animal Science (MS)
- Medical and Health Professions Education (MS & PhD)
- Public Health (MS)
- Reproductive Clinical Science (MS & PhD)
- Surgical Assisting (MS)
- Pathologists' Assistant (MHS)
- Physician Assistant (MPA)

EVMS serves as the school of record for all programs shown above except Clinical Psychology; other policies and procedures may be applicable for that program based on school of record responsibilities. In addition to the policies and procedures depicted below, each program may have additional grading or other essential requirements that are communicated to students in writing at the initiation of their first semester or at other times as deemed necessary.

GRADING POLICY

This section specifies the general grading policies and procedures used by all the health professions programs. In addition to the policies listed here, each program may have additional requirements communicated to students in writing at the initiation of their first semester.

Grades at the end of each term are assigned according to the EVMS School of Health Professions grading scale.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE SCALE

All SHP programs for which EVMS serves as the school of record will use the following grading scale for those courses in which grades affect the Grade Point Average (GPA).

A grading structure that is consistent with program or departmental guidelines will be established for each class by the instructor. These requirements, along with the goals and requirements for each course, the nature of the course content, and the methods of evaluation, are communicated to students at the initiation of each course. Programs are responsible for sending grade reports to students at the end of each term.

Grade	Points	Grades Not Affecting GPA: I = Incomplete P = Pass W = Official Withdrawal WF = Unofficial Withdrawal
A	4.00	
A-	3.67	
B+	3.33	
B	3.00	
B-	2.67	
C+	2.33	
C	2.00	
C-	1.67	
F	0.00	

GRADE POINT CALCULATION

The grade point average is calculated by dividing the accumulated number of grade points earned by the accumulated number of credit hours attempted. Grades of “F” and repeats are included, but official withdrawals, audits, and grades on non–credit courses, non–degree credit courses, and pass/fail courses are not. If a student is required to repeat a course or receives permission from a program director to repeat a course, the grade point average will be calculated using only the repeated course grade and the corresponding point value. However, the original grade assigned for that course will remain on the transcript. Grades in courses accepted for transfer credit are not counted in the computation of grade point average.

Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher for graduation. Students falling below the minimum GPA requirement may be placed on probation or suspended in accordance with procedures established below and by each program.

SHP GRADING SCALE

Unless an exception is approved by the dean, courses offered in the School of Health Professions will use the following grading scale.

Percentile	Grade
100 - 94	A
93 - 90	A-
89 - 87	B+
86 - 84	B
83 - 80	B-
79 - 77	C+
76 - 74	C
73-70	C-
Less than 70	F

INCOMPLETE GRADES

The grade “I” indicates assigned work yet to be completed in each course or an approved absence from the final examination. When an instructor assigns a grade of “I,” a written agreement is prepared and signed by the instructor and student that specifies the work remaining to be completed and the time frame for doing so. The work should be completed as soon as possible, but not later than the mid- point of the following grading period/semester unless special written approval is granted by the course director and program director for extraordinary circumstances. The student must petition the course director and the program director for such an extension at least two weeks before the end of the agreed upon deadline. Unless an extension has been approved by the course director and the program director, the “I” will convert to either an “F” or the grade as specified in the written agreement after the mid-point of the semester. An “I” grade may not be changed to a “W” under any circumstances.

WITHDRAWALS

A student can withdraw from a course up until the mid-point of the grading period/semester and receive a W grade. Withdrawal after the midterm is not permitted without special approval by the program director. However, in the event of an illness or severe hardship beyond the student's control, the student should submit a written petition for permission to withdraw from the course to the instructor and program director no later than the last day of classes. If permission is granted by the program director, a grade of W is recorded. If permission is not granted, then the student cannot withdraw from the class. A student who stops attending classes without withdrawing is assigned a WF grade unless the student's performance was failing, in which case a grade of F will be assigned.

PROGRESS REVIEW

Regular assessment of students and feedback to them is essential to effective teaching and learning. All possible effort should be extended to identify students whose performance is unsatisfactory and establish remedial intervention. Course instructors and program directors will regularly review the academic progress of their designated students and evaluate the overall progress of each student at the conclusion of each grading term and academic year. Each program will establish policies and procedures for completing assessments, communicating results to students, and documenting outcomes.

Procedures for addressing performance deficiencies or circumstances that may prohibit students from successfully completing a program are outlined in subsequent pages in the performance deficiencies and probation procedures. Programs may have additional remediation policies and procedures and students should contact the appropriate program office or director for this information. Program directors shall provide periodic reports to the dean of the School of Health Professions that summarize student progress issues for their respective programs.

GRADE APPEALS

Students may appeal or seek remediation of a grade based on the policies and procedures established by the applicable program. Students who desire an appeal or seek remediation of a grade should first address the issue directly with the appropriate course instructor and follow all program specific policies and procedures. If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved with the course instructor, the student may appeal the decision to the program director based on program procedures. If the

issue is still not resolved, the student may appeal to the dean of the School of Health Professions.

Additional information regarding policies and procedures not listed in this handbook, including elective, pass/fail, and audit course options and procedures for evaluating, dropping a course, and reporting of grades vary for each program and will be communicated to students at the initiation of their first semester and other times as deemed necessary.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

All students in the EVMS School of Health Professions are expected to attain a term Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 to be considered in good academic standing and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 to graduate. Students who do not meet these criteria are subject to formal warnings, probation and/or dismissal. Students who receive a warning or are placed on probation must demonstrate sufficient academic progress in the following term, as determined by the program director and faculty, to remain in the program. Students on probation who fail to demonstrate academic progress in the following term will be subject to dismissal. The program director should consider the extent to which a student is performing at a level necessary to attain the knowledge, skills, and competencies required to succeed in the program, including the ability to meet the cumulative GPA and other graduation requirements. All programs must review the academic progress of their students on a regular basis and at such intervals deemed appropriate, but not less than once at the end of each grading term.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Transfer of credit may be allowed for course work taken at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning, such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, for courses in which a grade of B (3.0) or higher was received or a passing grade was achieved in a pass/fail course. Doctoral programs may accept a maximum of 12 transfer credits, and master's programs may accept a maximum of 9 transfer credits. Course grades obtained from another institution will not be counted in the GPA. All applicants seeking to transfer credit(s) should contact the program for special application or credential requirements. Decisions regarding applicability of transfer courses/credits will be made by the Program director in consultation with the faculty as deemed appropriate. EVMS assumes responsibility for the academic quality of all course work or credit recorded on the institution's transcript. It is the responsibility of each program to determine a student's comprehension of the requisite material and to ensure that the transferred course work and/or learning outcomes are comparable to the courses offered by the applicable EVMS program.

ASSIGNING CREDIT HOURS

SHP programs use the calculus in the table below to assign course credit hours for all courses, on-site or asynchronous.

Type of Course	Credit/Contact Hours
Lecture, Seminar, Independent Study	1 credit = 15 contact hours
Laboratory	1 credit = 30 contact hours
Clinical Rotations, Internship	1 credit = 80 contact hours

Student contact hour workload equivalency for asynchronous courses shall be determined using the following calculus, with hours adjusted proportionately up or down based on the credits awarded and course length:

Semester Format	Credit Hours	Total Hour Commitment	Weekly Course Time
16-week	3	135	8.4 hours
15-week	3	135	9 hours
13-week	3	135	10.4 hours
12-week	3	135	11.3 hours
10-week	3	135	13.5 hours
9-week	3	135	15 hours
8-week	3	135	16.9 hours
6-week	3	135	22.5 hours

ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC DEFICIENCIES

Procedures for addressing academic and non-academic deficiencies that may impede student progress or prohibit students from successfully completing a program are defined below, including student appeals to ensure appropriate due process. These procedures apply to programs in which EVMS is the school of record.

DEFICIENCIES

Deficiencies, which may result in probation or dismissal/termination of a student, include both academic and non-academic areas. The dean of the School of Health Professions or a designee may intervene to address academic and non-academic deficiencies and may impose such remedies as are determined to be in the best interests of EVMS.

- **Academic Deficiencies** include but are not limited to: an inadequate knowledge base; a lack of information gathering ability, problem solving difficulties, poor clinical and technical skills; or errors in judgment.
- **Non-Academic Deficiencies** include but are not limited to: any action or behavior that is considered unacceptable to the training program faculty; poor professional relationships; moral and ethical values unacceptable to the profession; failure to comply with the standards of student behavior including the code of student conduct set forth herein, the rules, regulations and bylaws of EVMS and/or affiliated practicum sites or the laws which govern the healing arts in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and/or a lack of abilities and talents that are necessary for the performance of expected duties for that health profession.

Each academic program has its own criteria for determining when and how to intervene on matters of academic and non-academic deficiencies. Some may require a written or verbal notification and/or warning from an instructor, advisor, or program director to convey concern about student performance and/or to inform the student of the risk of probation unless performance improves. In all programs, a student placed on probation will be informed in writing and his/her performance will be monitored. The written notification must specify if termination in the educational program is a potential outcome of the probationary status. Interventions typically follow the progressive hierarchy of warning, probation, and dismissal.

Probationary status will be defined by the program's faculty, and the terms of probation must be signed by the program director and the student. While on probation, the student will be provided

close faculty supervision and may or may not be given credit for the time during which the probationary status is in effect. If the probationary period is not creditable toward the required time for the educational program, an extension of training time (within timeliness for the degree) may be considered at the discretion of the program director.

If a student's conduct compromises acceptable standards of patient care or jeopardizes the welfare of patients under his/her/their care, the program director has the option of immediately suspending the student from clinical duties until such time as an appropriate investigation of the allegations can occur. The dean of the School of Health Professions, the associate dean of the School of Health Professions, the associate dean for Student Affairs, and the Registrar must all be notified when a student is placed on probation.

IDENTIFICATION AND REMEDIATION OF DEFICIENCIES

Faculty and other professional staff will promptly notify the program director of areas of concern regarding a student's academic progress, professional behavior, and development. Upon notification of a potential problem, the program director or designee will investigate the report and develop a remediation plan if warranted. The program director or designee will meet with the student to discuss areas of concern, including development of a remediation plan with clear goals and objectives, a specific time frame for completing the plan, and potential outcomes. The plan will be signed by the program director and the student. Follow up meetings will occur with the student, key program faculty, and the program director. Program faculty and program directors should use their reasonable judgment in documenting academic and non-academic student issues including remediation plans, progress reports, and supervision meetings. Written documentation is required if a student receives a warning, is placed on probation, or is dismissed from the program.

ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

Students in the School of Health Professions have the right to due process involving grievances and appeals.

The student should discuss the grievance with his/her/their program director. If the grievance is not resolved, a student may file a written appeal to the dean of the School of Health Professions within seven days of the student's notification of the program director's decision. Upon receipt of the appeal, the dean will notify the Registrar accordingly. The dean or a designee will review all pertinent material and meet with the student. The dean may convene a Grievance/Appeals Committee composed of program directors, faculty, students, and/or chairs of departments not directly involved in the grievance. All testimony, evidence, and witnesses relevant to the appeal shall be made available to this committee. The student has the right to appear before the committee, and present testimony and such witnesses or evidence as is deemed relevant by the committee. The student shall not have the right to be represented by counsel at these committee meetings. The committee will submit its recommendations to the Dean after the review is completed.

The dean will notify the student within ten business days of his/her decision. The decision may include reinstatement, retention, probation, termination, suspension, special academic assignments, or other interventions deemed appropriate to the situation. The judgment of the dean concerning the grievance shall be final and binding on all parties except for recommending the termination of a student's participation in an academic program.

In the case of termination from an academic program, the student may file a written appeal to the EVMS President/Provost within five business days of the student's notification from the dean of the School of Health Professions. The president/provost will review all pertinent material and notify the student within fifteen business days of receipt of the appeal of his/her decision. The decision of the president/provost is final.

TUITION CHARGES IF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT COMPLETED ON TIME

Students who do not complete graduation requirements on time may be charged prevailing tuition rates if they retake a course or if a new course is necessary to finish their program of study. In general, students will not incur additional tuition charges if they complete courses or clinical rotations within approximately 90 days of the original anticipated graduation date.

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES STATEMENT

Student Disability Services Statement

EVMS provides reasonable accommodations to qualified students with a documented disability. Students must self-identify with Student Disability Services as having a disability to begin the accommodation process. It is in the best interest of the student to begin the accommodation process soon, as accommodations are not retroactive. All students must be able to fulfill the academic and technical standards of their academic program with or without reasonable accommodations; however, accommodations are made available to aid in fulfilling those standards, not to waive them. If you have or believe you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, you must contact the EVMS Student Disability Officer (Emily Magee, Lewis Hall, 1173, 757.464.7283, MageeEF@EVMS.edu). For more information about students and disability accommodations, please see the Student Disability Guide at https://myportal.evms.edu/education/student_affairs/disability_services/

WELCOME

Welcome to the Histotechnology Program at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS). You are enrolling in a professional graduate curriculum that is both rigorous and demanding, but will prepare you exceedingly well for a rewarding and challenging career as a Histotechnologist.

We will provide you with a learning environment that is supportive and intellectually stimulating. The faculty expects the highest professional conduct from each student. Reciprocally, the Histotechnology Program faculty has a deep commitment to provide you an exceptional education grounded in a blend of unique faculty expertise and understanding of mutual respect and support towards our students.

The Histotechnology Student Handbook provides students with institutional and program policies and information. Please read this handbook carefully and entirely.

On behalf of the Histotechnology Program faculty and administrative staff, we welcome you to this formative journey in your educational experience and look forward to assisting you in achieving your academic ambitions and career goals.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jorge L. Jacot

Jorge L. Jacot, MS (PathA), Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Program Director
Histotechnology Program
Eastern Virginia Medical School
JacotJL@evms.edu
757-446-5648

BRIEF PROGRAM HISTORY

EVMS initiated a plan to develop a Histotechnology Program in 2019. At that time, there were no Histotechnology Programs in the state of Virginia offering a graduate degree and only four other NAACLS accredited master's degree Histotechnology Programs available in the United States.

The EVMS Histotechnologist Program will enroll its inaugural class in August 2021. Didactical coursework and laboratory exercises will be held predominantly on the third floor of Lewis Hall where the available resources are to fulfill the educational mission of the program.

WHAT IS A HISTOTECHNOLOGIST?

Histotechnologists (HTLs) are members of a laboratory team who employ histologic technology to diagnose diseases or conduct research. Histotechnologists play a fundamental role in the allied health profession. A histotechnologist will prepare very thin slices of tissue for microscopic examination. The histotechnologist's skillful application of sophisticated laboratory techniques is an important part of the intricate process of scientific investigation used in establishing and confirming patient diagnosis. They play a vital role behind the scenes, performing the tasks necessary to bridge the gap between collecting a specimen and patient diagnosis and possible treatment.

Histotechnologists are drawn to the field because of their strong interest in patient care. They want to make a difference in people's lives and work in healthcare but do not thrive on the direct patient contact that is seen by a nurse or doctor.

Histotechnologists work in a wide scope of clinical practices. Although most histotechnologists work in academic and community hospitals, they can also be employed in other areas such as private pathology laboratories, forensic pathology laboratories, reference laboratories, government healthcare systems, and medical teaching facilities.

PURPOSE

PROGRAM MISSION, GOALS AND OUTCOMES

EVMS Mission Statement: Eastern Virginia Medical School is an academic health center dedicated to achieving excellence in medical and health professions education, research, and patient care. We value creating and fostering a diverse and cohesive faculty, professional staff, and student body as the surest way to achieve our mission. Adhering to the highest ethical standards, we will strive to improve the health of our community and to be recognized as a national center of intellectual and clinical strength in medicine and health professions. Our commitment to ensuring institutional effectiveness is demonstrated by the continuous assessment processes we use to improve program performance and student learning outcomes.

Histotechnology Program Mission Statement: The EVMS Histotechnology Program is committed to educate and train individuals to become academically qualified and highly competent Allied Health Professionals as Histotechnologists (HTL) that provide histologic technology to diagnose diseases or conduct research. The program will prepare students to successfully complete the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification examination for Histotechnologists. Upon completing this program, students will have acquired the necessary skills and demonstrated the professionalism required to fulfill the responsibilities of a Histotechnologist and shall be prepared to serve in hospitals, clinical laboratories, research laboratories, biorepositories, and medical teaching facilities.

Program Goals: Our program establishes the following student expectations and learning outcomes upon completion of the program. The program goals are related to the mission of EVMS and the School of Health Professions and are reflective of the scope of practice for Histotechnologists.

Achievement of these goals is evaluated directly or indirectly utilizing tools that measure specific outcomes related to the goals. The goals for the Histotechnology Program are:

1. **Academic:** Graduates shall have a solid foundation of knowledge on which to build their careers and shall be capable of self-directed learning to allow for adaptability in clinical and research settings as well as continued professional development.
2. **Professionalism:** Graduates shall understand the importance of professionalism and ethical behavior as it relates to themselves, their employer, their profession, their patients, and the greater community. They shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the Code of Conduct implicit for their profession.
3. **Educational Teaching:** Graduates will understand educational theories and shall be capable to serve as educators, to teach other students of histotechnology, histologists and medical technology students utilizing various proven methods of instruction.
4. **Specimen and Tissue Processing:** Graduates shall understand microscopic anatomy, laboratory techniques and operations, and shall execute the duties required of a histotechnologist, including pre-analytic, analytic, and post-analytic laboratory functions. Students have theoretical and practical knowledge of specimen preparation for flow cytometry and electron microscopy with the ability to identify various cellular organelles from electron micrographs. Acquire the capability of cutting specimens on microtome to prepare for staining and cover slipping.
5. **Staining (Routine & Special):** Graduates shall have an appreciation for the principles of staining and technical requirements. The graduate student will be capable of developing staining protocols for staining by hand and will be able to use an automated stainer. The graduate students will have knowledge of performing stains in the context of clinical indications. The graduate students will exhibit knowledge for interpretation of the stain and the ability to render judgement regarding quality control of processed samples as well as the ability to troubleshoot for resolving inadequate/poor staining outcomes. Can validate new protocols for routine H&E and special staining. They shall be able to execute the duties of a histotechnologist in the preparation, performance, and reporting of a stained specimen.
6. **Frozen Sections:** Acquire the capability of performing frozen sections independently. Conduct frozen sections on specimens as per pathologist direction. Assist and cut frozen sections for MOHS procedures. Perform sectioning and hand staining of frozen sections for pathologists in a surgical setting in a manner consistent with practice as a histotechnologist.
7. **Immunohistochemistry:** Perform microscopic quality control of IHC staining according to CAP and CLIA guidelines. Possess the capability of rendering complete histology support from tissue fixation, embedding, microtome sectioning and immunohistochemistry (IHC). Develop and implement immunohistochemical analyses for a variety of different tissue types. Can validate and optimize antibodies for clinical immunohistochemistry assays. Perform Immunohistochemistry testing on samples ordered by pathologists, including biopsies, grossing samples, embedding, microtome, cryo-sections, IHC and immunofluorescent (IF) staining. Perform special stains, immunohistochemistry stains, molecular techniques, as well as in-situ hybridization (ISH) and FISH. Process immunohistochemistry (IHC) staining protocols in compliance with SOP. Complete histology support from tissue fixation, embedding to microtome sectioning, immunohistochemistry and in situ hybridization.

8. **Molecular Diagnostic Markers:** Understand principles of molecular pathology methods. Identify clinical indications for molecular pathology markers. Perform quality assurance for appropriate interpretation of immunohistochemical markers.
9. **Surgical Specimens:** Process surgical specimens for pathological examination. Perform gross examination and dictation of small biopsy surgical specimens. Perform general histology duties of processing, embedding, sectioning, and H&E staining of routine surgical specimens, cell blocks and biopsies. Cut and embed surgical specimens, small biopsies, and MOHS biopsies working closely with the pathologist to ensure quality results. Maintain data entry of processed surgical specimens.
10. **Cytology:** Prepare cytological samples submitted for microscopic evaluation. Perform processing of alcohol fixed as well as freshly made smears. Conduct routine staining of cytology smears and fine needle aspirates (FNA).
11. **Cell Culture:** Can perform fundamentals of cell culture aseptic techniques, including primary cell isolation from tissue or propagation of an established cell line. Understand sources of potential contamination. Acquire functional knowledge in making cell culture media.
12. **Laboratory Administration & Management:** Graduates shall understand basic theory and regulatory requirements of a medical laboratory and shall have proficiency in basic elements of laboratory administration and management. Acquired skills include: Maintaining inventory supplies for an IHC department; Managing workload and oversight of personnel; Implementation of new procedures; Performing technical procedures, troubleshooting, and maintaining histology lab equipment; Assisting in data entry projects and contributing, maintaining and improving quality/compliance of all standard operating procedures (SOPs).

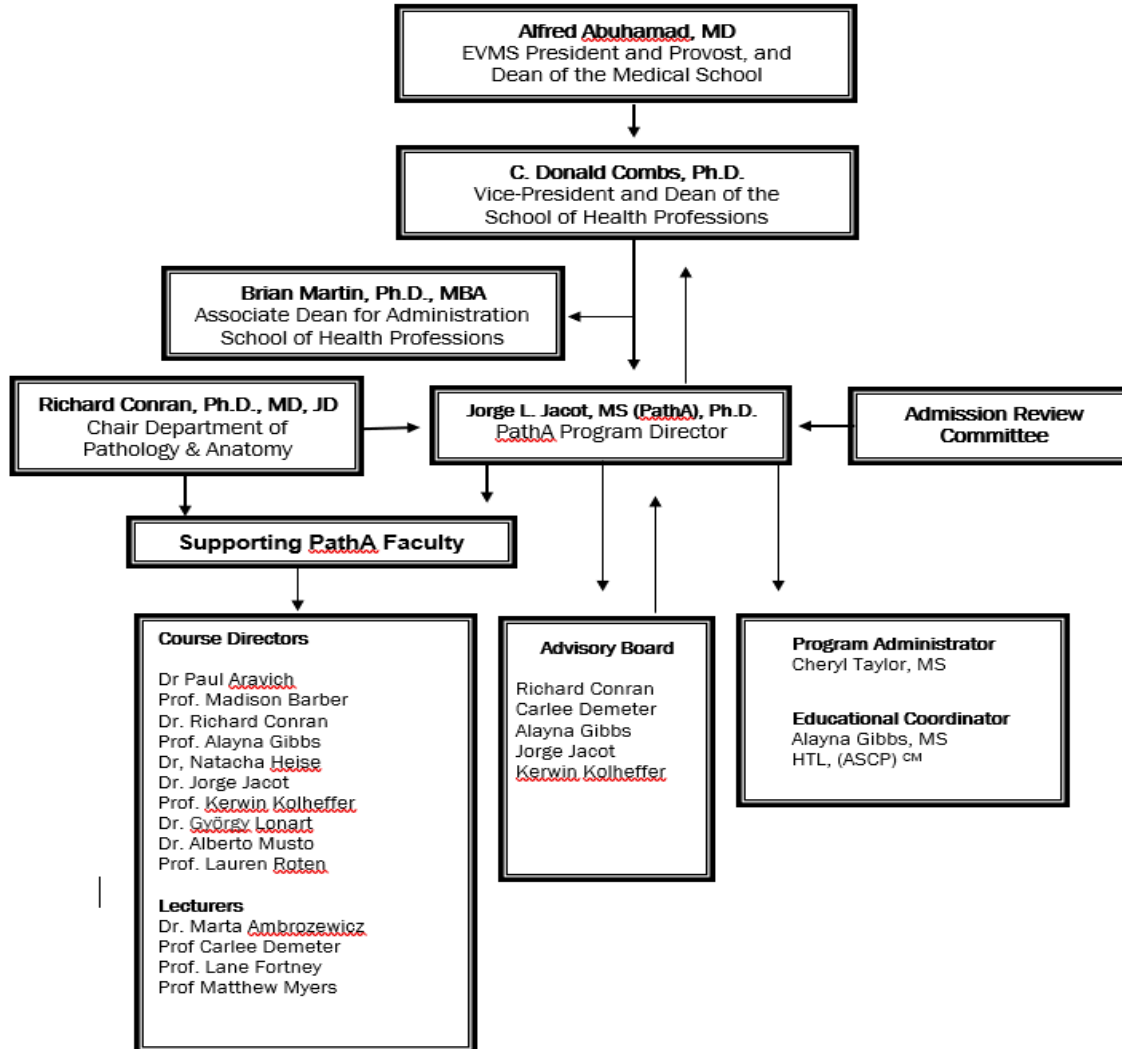
ACCREDITATION

The EVMS Histotechnology (HTL) Program will strive to obtain serious applicant status by summer 2023 and anticipate full accreditation by 2023 from the National Agency for Accreditation of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). In the interim, the program continues to strive to comply with all the Standards established by NAACLS.

KEY PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Title and Name	Email	Phone
Program director, Associate Professor Jorge L. Jacot, MS (PathA), PhD	jacotJL@evms.edu	757-446-5648
Chairman- Department of Pathology & Anatomy Richard Conran, PhD, MD, JD	conranRM@evms.edu	757-446-5620
Educational Coordinator Alayna Gibbs, MS, HTL(ASCP) ^{CM}	gibbsaj@evms.edu	757-446-7910
Office Coordinator Cheryl Taylor	taylorc@evms.edu	757-446-7123

HISTOTECHNOLOGIST PROGRAM ORGANIZATION CHART



PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

TIME TO COMPLETE DEGREE

The Histotechnology Program is a 12-month three semester program leading to a master's degree of Health Sciences in Histotechnology.

The current program curriculum is comprised of 43 credit hours, 1 full year of 3 semesters (Fall, Spring, & Summer). The curriculum is focused on didactical coursework which encompass both lecture and laboratory formats as well as clinical rotation clerkships at affiliated hospitals, private pathology groups, and major academic medical centers with histologic laboratories. The last semester clinical clerkships are carried out at local and regional affiliate hospital centers.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To graduate from the Histotechnology Program, and earn the Master of Health Sciences in Histotechnology Degree, candidates must:

- Achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better for all didactic courses (first 3 semesters of the program).
- Successfully complete of all clinical clerkship(s) with or above the minimum grade requirement.
- Successfully complete the HTL program goals, consisting of: Successful completion of all required Supervised Clinical Practice (SCP) Courses.
- Successfully complete the ASCP practice examination.
- Be recommended for graduation by the program director and EVMS faculty.
- Student must file the appropriate graduation application.
- Student must have paid all debts to the school.

PROGRAM ORIENTATION

The School of Health Professions and the Histotechnology Program co-sponsor a two-day mandatory professional orientation for matriculating students before the first day of class in August prior to commencement of the fall semester. Orientation activities will include, but not be limited to:

- Reviewing the content of the Histotechnology Student Handbook.
- Officially meeting the faculty, staff, and fellow students.
- Reviewing the requirements and expectations for participating in the program.
 - Introduction to school officials and policies.
 - Introduction to the use of technology at EVMS.

REGISTRATION: DROP/TRANSFER POLICY AND PROCEDURE

DROPPING a course or courses would effectively lead to withdrawal from the program, with the Student Progress Committee and program director determining the possibility of return to the program.

The following stipulations apply to all students:

- Matriculated students may NOT transfer credits or courses from another outside program or school.
- Transferring credits from another program **within EVMS** can only be done with the written approval of the HTL program director. These requests are evaluated on a case-by- case basis. Listed requirements/objectives of the course and student performance on the course are taken into consideration. Transferring credits might impact the requirement for full-time status of the student for financial aid eligibility. The HTL program is on a fixed tuition and therefore, full tuition will still be required.
- There is no mechanism for entering the program with advanced standing.
- All students MUST complete all components of the program, in sequence, as full-time students.
- There is no opportunity to change the order of pre-clinical coursework.

STUDENT EMAIL ACCOUNTS

All students will be assigned an EVMS email account prior to matriculation in the Histotechnologist Program. These email accounts are used by all school departments for timely communication with students (not just the program). These accounts are essential to facilitate this communication. Students are required to check their EVMS email accounts at least twice a week, with daily review

recommended, and are responsible for knowledge of all school or program information contained in the emails.

Students will provide the educational coordinator/program director with a phone number or other contact number by the end of the second semester. This must be updated within three days of any change.

Students will retain all written, hand-delivered, and/or electronic correspondence received from the Histotechnology Program during each supervised clinical practice which can, as necessary, be reviewed with the program staff.

Students may contact the Educational Coordinator (Prof. Gibbs, 757-446-7910, gibbsaj@evms.edu) or Program Director (Dr. Jacot, 757-446-5648, jacotjl@evms.edu) at any time, with messages to be returned within 48 hours when reasonable.

The Histotechnology program will utilize email and/or E*Value as a mechanism for expedient communication with the students. Students must check their EVMS email and/or E*Value account daily during the clinical clerkships.

Students must maintain EVMS email access throughout their clinical training. EVMS policy forbids program communication through student's personal email accounts. All communication must come through EVMS email.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

- All students are to wear an ID badge provided by the school. This is required to be always worn and visible while on campus for security reasons. Clinical affiliation sites may require additional identification and nametags to be worn. ID badges will be provided at the orientation or within the first week of school.
- Students will wear identification pins and/or badges bearing their name, EVMS, and "Histotechnology Student" spelled out on their short white lab coat. The name tag should be worn over the breast pocket. Example:
Jane Doe, Histotechnology-Student
Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Students will verbally identify themselves as "Histotechnology STUDENT" from the EVMS Histotechnology Program during all patient and professional encounters at the site or when representing the profession or the program.

STUDENT ATTIRE

Students will comply with the established dress code policies for SCPs of the Histotechnology Program and host institution during clinical education placements. Professional attire for men and women includes: slacks, collared shirts with ties for men, and slacks and/or appropriate length skirts with blouses or sweaters, or dresses for women. Students should be careful not to wear shirts, blouses or sweaters that are form-fitting or have a low neckline. Closed toe shoes are required. Neat grooming is expected, and lab coats (if worn) must be clean and in good repair. Blue jeans, tee shirts, flip flops, canvas, or nylon shoes are not allowed. In laboratory settings, proper laboratory attire must be worn including closed toe shoes (non- absorptive) and attire that covers the legs. **Scrubs may be worn in laboratory settings as is acceptable to the host SCP site. All scrubs must be a matching set,**

without patterns or adornments, and in a non-distracting solid color (ex. green, blue, grey, or black – Ask the SCP site preceptor for guidance). Furthermore, scrubs must be intact, without holes, tears, or writing on them, and they must be without wrinkles.

Student attire affects the reputation, and reflects upon the professionalism, of the student, the Histotechnology program, and EVMS. Please keep this in mind when preparing for clinical training activities.

- **CLINICAL CLERKSHIPS:** Students will wear clean short white coats and EVMS nametags for all clinical experiences. Course directors will specify appropriate occasions for clinical attire in the didactic year.
- **CLINICAL ATTIRE:** Appropriate apparel for females is slacks and blouses, appropriate length skirts and blouses, or dresses. Students need to exhibit discretion when choosing their professional wardrobe and avoid cropped tank tops, low neck lines and form fitting apparel. Males must wear slacks or casual pants, shirts with collars, and ties. For both genders: no scrubs (except when appropriate for working in the grossing lab or autopsy suite), tee shirts, shorts, jeans, sweatpants and tops, tennis or running shoes, sandals, or open toed shoes are NOT allowed.
- **LABORATORY:** Students may choose to purchase a white coat to be worn during their laboratory experiences held during the first year. No open toed shoes are acceptable in the lab. Rules will be established by the course director for appropriate attire and personal protective equipment in the lab.
- **CLASSROOM:** Students may be dressed comfortably in the classroom according to seasonal norms. Please refrain from wearing scrubs, cutoffs, torn clothing, revealing clothing, or clothing with images, drawings, or sayings of a controversial or suggestive nature.
- The program director may request specific attire requirements for special occasions.
- Course directors, core faculty, and preceptors reserve the right to question attire choices that may seem inappropriate to them. A student may be refused participation in any clinical or didactic setting when attire is clearly inappropriate.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- EVMS is committed to utilizing new and emerging learning technologies that enhance and facilitate learning opportunities and outcomes and continually monitors, evaluates, and improves the curriculum to provide the best possible educational program.
- For incoming students to take advantage of the ever-changing technology, the institution's **computing requirements** will be revised, as appropriate, each year.
- Each incoming student will need to have a personal laptop computer capable of running the necessary software and applications used in our curriculum. The standards are the minimum necessary for a student to successfully participate in the curriculum during the 24-month program.
- Webcam is to be enabled during online sessions.
- Information about student expectations and responsibilities will be provided at orientation.

EVMS LAPTOP COMPUTING REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for a Wi-Fi capable laptop are updated annually.

1. **LAPTOP:** (no more than 2 years old) *NOTE: Netbooks, Chromebooks, iPads, and other tablets*

are not viable choices to meet the following standards

- a. Processor: minimum dual core
 - b. RAM: minimum 4 GB
 - c. Screen Resolution: 1280 x 720 (720p)
 - d. HDMI output recommended.
 - e. Wireless cards: 802.11 a/b/g/n (ac compatibility recommended)
 - f. Recommended Service Plan: minimum 28 months
2. OPERATING SYSTEM:
- a. Windows 7 (32 or 64 bit) Home Premium (or higher) is recommended
 - b. NOTE: Windows 7-10 and Mac OSX 10.8x - 10.11.x will meet the requirements to access the campus network and are officially supported at this time.
 - c. **IMPORTANT:** The Network Information Center recommends that students **do not upgrade operating systems without prior confirmation of institutional compatibility.**
3. BROWSER:
- a. PC: Microsoft Internet Explorer (version 11), Firefox* or Chrome Mac: Safari version 5.1.7 or higher
 - b. NOTE: The Network Information Center HIGHLY RECOMMENDS that students **do not use beta versions of these browsers.**
 - c. Firefox is the suggested browser for viewing recordings on the [EVMS video portal](#) which also requires the [Microsoft Silverlight plugin](#).
4. SOFTWARE: Software required for EVMS network access and functionality on campus are provided on the myEVMS portal as "Student Software Download."
- a. Microsoft Office 2013 Standard Edition or higher
 - i. Office 365 may be purchased through the myEVMS portal at a reduced rate after enrollment.
 - b. Adobe Acrobat XI or higher
5. OPTIONAL Recommended Items:
- a. External Storage device (large capacity jump drive or external drive) for data backup (optional but recommended)
 - b. CD/DVD drive

We understand that choices in computer manufacturer and operating system are personal choices, and every effort has been made to provide for such flexibility, however, the computer **MUST** meet the minimum specifications. As such, "netbooks, Chromebooks, iPads, and other tablets will not meet these requirements and cannot be relied on as sufficient to fulfill this requirement for incoming students.

Questions about this policy may be directed to EVMS Network Center Support (comphelp@evms.edu | 757.446.5871)

EVMS Network Center Support

Because of the variability in computer manufacturers, hardware, software, etc., **the EVMS Network Center will only provide support for installing the necessary software to ensure compliance with and access to the EVMS wireless network access.** The Network Center **is not able to** provide support or troubleshooting for hardware or software/application support. All support, troubleshooting, and updates will be the student's responsibility; therefore, purchase of a service plan for your computer is highly recommended.

ATTENDANCE

DIDACTIC YEAR ATTENDANCE

- Attendance at all scheduled didactic sessions in the Histotechnology program is expected. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these have been converted to interactive synchronous online lecture sessions. Attendance and timeliness in the classroom may be viewed as an indicator of the student's future attendance and timeliness during the clinical clerkships and is viewed as a component of the expected professionalism.
- Attendance in all classes and laboratory exercises will be monitored by the course directors in accordance with the guidelines specified in the table for *unexcused absences*.
- Unanticipated absences should be discussed with either the program director, course director, or contact administrative staff as soon as possible to inform program authorities of the circumstances, and to ensure that any missed class materials can be made up and/or obtained from classmates.
- Anticipated absences should be discussed with the program director or course director ASAP.
- Absences will be characterized as either **excused** or **unexcused**. Generally, absences for illness, accidents, or anticipatable personal emergencies will be considered excused. Proof of illness may be requested. Written documentation for excused absences must be provided to the program director within 24 hours of the student's return to campus.
- The program reserves the right to assess attendance records of students who have a serious or prolonged illness and to determine the student's ability to progress through the curriculum. Prolonged or repeated absences may make it difficult or impossible to satisfactorily continue in the program. A student with a prolonged absence may be asked to withdraw from the program. An opportunity to return the following year may be extended to the student when that is deemed appropriate by a review committee.
- Students with a pattern of unexcused absences or excessive tardiness will be counselled as a part of their professionalism assessment. If attendance does not improve, the student may be asked to attend a faculty meeting to discuss their apparent inability to meet the requirements of the program.

GUIDELINE FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES (Remember: no penalty for EXCUSED absences)

	For a one (1) Credit Course	For a two (2) Credit Course	For a three (3) or more Credit Course
No penalty for this many unexcused absences per semester or fewer	1 class	2 classes	3 classes
Exceeding stipulated threshold above: all unexcused absences count against you	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Full 5% of final course grade is lost beyond the stipulated number of unexcused absences and will accrue an additional 1% for each additional absence	3 or more	4 or more	5 or more
Examples: for Unexcused Absences	1 absence = 0% 2 absences = 1% 3 absences = 5%	2 absences = 0% 3 absences = 1% 4 absences = 5%	3 absences = 0% 4 absences = 1% 5 absences = 5%

CLINICAL CLERKSHIP ATTENDANCE

Students should attempt to integrate themselves into the team or practice to which they are assigned.

Students are expected to be present **40 hours per week (5 weeks = total of 200 hours)** at each assigned clinical education site during the summer semester unless otherwise stipulated by the educational coordinator (EC) or program director (PD).

Certain sites may require extended hours due to the nature of the practice. Alternate schedules must be approved by the EC/CLC/PD prior to student placement at a site and shall be done so only under exceptional circumstances. Due to preceptor and/or program expectations, there is no guarantee that these requests will be approved. Students ARE NOT TO NEGOTIATE the schedule with the site. **If a student attempts to negotiate his/her schedule, the student may face disciplinary action, and will be required to meet with the EC/CLC and the overall rotation grade may be affected.**

ALL ISSUES INVOLVING CLINICAL CLERKSHIP EVENTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED FIRST TO THE EDUCATIONAL COORDINATOR (EC) or Clinical Liaison Coordinator (CLC). The Program Director (PD) should be notified only in the absence of the EC/CLC, or if the EC/CLC cannot be contacted. The EC/CLC will inform the Program Director in such matters directly.

Students will be present during **day, night and/or weekend hours** when required by the preceptor. Additionally, students will attend **all** learning activities (grand rounds, lectures, and other assignments) as instructed by their preceptor in correlation with Histotechnologist objectives. Failure to fulfill these requirements may result in overall grade deductions. Attendance at all scheduled SCP dates is **mandatory** and a part of the student's total composite performance score (see clinical setting performance standard).

The clinical phase of the program may necessitate the implementation of a SCP calendar that may deviate from the Histotechnology program or EVMS academic calendars. Program approved holidays include the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving Day, the Friday after Thanksgiving, and a Christmas holiday break (approximately 1 month). Students are expected to be present at the assigned site on all additional holidays if the site is operational.

There are certain situations (doctor's appointments, weddings, births, unexpected illnesses, emergencies, etc.) that occur throughout the year that may necessitate time off. For this reason, you are allotted a **total of 5 personal absences over the course of your ENTIRE clinical clerkship**. No more than 3 days may be missed in one single rotation. When circumstances necessitate a longer absence (i.e., protracted illness or emergencies) a leave of absence status will be required (see Leave of Absence Policy). Requests for excused personal absences (aside for those unforeseen circumstances), must be received prior to the start of the rotation the requested date falls within. See dates below for deadlines for personal absence requests.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD STUDENTS NEGOTIATE THEIR SCHEDULE WITH THE PRECEPTOR WITHOUT FIRST DISCUSSING THEIR SITUATION WITH THE EC/CLC.

Any student who is absent > 5 days over the course of the clinical clerkship will be required to make up all absent days under the discretion of the EC/CLC or PD. This may entail delaying the graduation date based on the preceptor/site availability.

3 or more missed days in a single rotation will require input from the EC/CLC or PD regarding make up hours and possible extension of the rotation. It is the student's responsibility to contact the preceptor or PD in these situations. The deadline for requesting personal absences for each SCP must be requested at the end of the spring semester and prior to the commencement of the clinical clerkship(s).

It is expected that all students attend the first day of each rotation (as many sites only conduct orientation on certain days as well as onboarding training). Any student who is not able to attend their first day of an SCP will be required to contact the EC, preceptor, or PD.

The EC, preceptor, or PD must be notified of any additional absences (to include illness, emergencies, preceptor schedule change, preceptor absence, etc.) during the SCP for purposes of establishing makeup time and/or assignments. The placement and timing of makeup days will be at the discretion of the EC/CLC or PD. This may result in an extension of the SCP or repeating the rotation in its entirety. Additionally, the student's rotation grade may be affected.

In the event of illness or emergency necessitating an absence from the clinical education site, students MUST personally notify the clinical site by 8:00 A.M. via personal communications AND written communication copied to the EC and preceptor. The Histotechnology program office (via email or direct communication with program staff must also be contacted no later than by 8:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter as physically possible. **Voicemail messages are NOT considered appropriate communication.** Failure to notify the program will result in clinical point deductions and potential disruption of the current rotation. Preceptors and sites will contact the program to verify an absence when it occurs. The student should be aware that late arrivals and absences may affect the final rotation grade, as attendance is one of the graded elements of the preceptor evaluation of the student.

Students absent from an SCP for more than three consecutive days due to an illness will require a written medical note for the student file. The note must indicate that you are cleared to return to your clinical rotation and must be signed by the provider.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Students participating in local Supervised Clinical Practice rotations in the Hampton Roads area (within 60 miles from EVMS) should follow EVMS instructions regarding inclement weather, school closures, and the implementation of liberal leave policy.

Students participating in distant clinical rotations (either assigned or student-initiated) should adhere to instructions provided by the clinical site and should observe closures and delayed openings as directed. In the event of dangerous conditions, students should use good judgement and prioritize their safety. If a student is not able to safely attend the SCP due to weather conditions, they are to notify their preceptor and the EVMS Histotechnology Program Educational Coordinator or Program Director (notify PD when EC or preceptor cannot be reached) by phone and email. This absence will be recorded, but will not count against the student's 5 personal absences. Prolonged absence may result in extension of the rotation or additional assignments.

Abuse of this policy will result in disciplinary action.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY

For circumstances that necessitate an extended absence (**1 work week or more**), a leave of absence may be initiated. Any leave of absence from EVMS requires a documented **Change of Status Form** with approval from the dean and program director. A leave of absence requires a meeting with the EC/CLC and PD. This will result in an extension of your clinical clerkship requirements and a possible delay in graduation date.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Due to the academic and clinical rigors of the Histotechnology curriculum, the Histotechnology program *strongly* recommends that students are not employed during their time in the Histotechnology program.

The following guidelines are meant to help the student in making decisions about work during participation in the Histotechnology Program:

- Students should keep in mind that while they may get the impression that they can handle work part-time during portions of the didactic curriculum, there are varied schedules and a varied level of difficulty between semester courses that will make simultaneous employment difficult and have a negative impact on their academic standing. Additionally, required travel associated with clinical clerkship placements during the clinical clerkship curriculum *will* make holding down employment very difficult.
- Students who choose to work are required to make this known to the program director.
- Clinical rotation hours or schedules **will not** be altered to conform to your personal job schedule or requirements. Your clinical education must remain your primary responsibility when balancing work and school.
- A student that is placed on *term probation* (a GPA below 3.00 for one semester) that is simultaneously working will be consulted and advised to discontinue employment or run the risk of failing academically in the program.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM

The Histotechnologist Program is committed to delivering a curriculum that will prepare the student well to function in the clinical setting. In our commitment to the process of continuous quality improvement, students are involved in course evaluations, supervised clinical practice evaluations, and faculty evaluations at the closure of each course, or semester.

Students are required to complete timely evaluations for didactic courses and supervised clinical practice experiences.

PROFESSIONALISM AND SCHOLARLY REQUIREMENTS PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

One of our goals while you are in the program is to assist you in learning how to function in a professional manner. The Histotechnologist program has established the following criteria as expectations of professional behavior:

- Students will be required to demonstrate full compliance with the technical standards to the degree students attested to on their admission statements and as re-attested during registration each semester.
- Students will engage in their didactic training and supervised practice in a professional manner

with clinical clerkship behavior that is patient-centered and reflective of the proper Code of Ethics for the profession.

- Students are required to treat their classmates and all EVMS faculty, students, and staff with respect.
- Students with concerns regarding classroom activities should first endeavor to resolve the issue with the course director or instructor, and if the circumstance cannot be resolved at that level, then the student should approach the program director.
- Students with concerns regarding clinical rotations should first endeavor to resolve the issue with their preceptor/site and/or contact the educational coordinator or clinical liaison coordinator.
- If concerns are not satisfactorily addressed or resolved by the course director, instructor, or preceptor, then the student should address the issue with the educational coordinator, clinical liaison coordinator, or program director as appropriate.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS, OTHER ELECTRONIC OR PRINTED MATERIALS, IN THE CLASSROOM AND ON BLACKBOARD

Printed matter, videos, and other electronic materials to include all PowerPoint presentations viewed on Blackboard or in the classroom can be deemed to be copyrighted materials owned by the original author(s) and/or Eastern Virginia Medical School. These materials are never to be copied or transferred electronically outside of the program or the school for any reason without the written permission of the author(s) of the presentation(s). Videos are used with “creative commons” understanding of fair use and teaching purposes. This material is intended for the exclusive use of educational purposes, and is not intended to be used for commercial or for direct compensation or profit generating activity. Doing so risks violation of US copyright laws which will result in legal action or other reasonable sanctions from the program or school.

PLAGIARISM

Students are expected to do their own work. Turning in a written assignment that is believed to be another person’s work will be considered cheating or plagiarism. The student will be referred to the EVMS Honor Council.

Faculty members may utilize online resources, like *Turnitin*, to evaluate writing assignments for evidence of improper use of another’s words or ideas.

HONOR CODE VIOLATIONS

Please follow the school’s process for Honor Council reporting. If you are aware of an Honor Council infraction, please report it directly to your class Honor Council Representative or to the Honor Council Chair for the school. It is not necessary to involve faculty in the reporting process. Direct reporting by students is preferred. A conviction by the Honor Council will be handled in accordance with existing rules for any academic or non-academic result of the conviction. In the case of a course failure related to an Honor Council conviction, the student may receive a suspension or be dismissed from the program, depending on the nature of the honor council findings and penalties.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

CELL PHONES

Cell phone use should conform to courteous and professional conduct in a classroom setting. Cell

phones must be off or on vibrate mode in class. If a cell-phone rings during class, the student should quietly gather their belongings if necessary and leave the classroom. If the nature of the call is such that the student cannot return to the classroom, then the student must inform the course director or instructor the reason for their departure and inability to return to the classroom.

FOOD IN THE CLASSROOM

The only times that food is allowed in the classroom is when the program provides food for some function or celebration. Otherwise, you may not eat in the classroom during class sessions. You may bring small snacks and liquids (coffee, tea, soda, or water) to the classroom. Eating a meal in the context of a class is strongly discouraged. When the classroom is available before or after scheduled classes, you may utilize the classroom to eat, but please be courteous and clean up after yourself.

RECORDING CAPABLE DEVICES

- Recorders and recording capable devices (cellphones, etc.) may only be used in a very transparent manner (i.e., visible to those being recorded).
- Students may not record meetings with faculty, staff, or other students without their consent or expressed permission. Any recording of conversations without the permission of all parties will be considered a breach of professionalism and may be a breach of the EVMS Code of Conduct.
- Lectures may be recorded for the student's personal use EXCEPT when a lecturer asks that you not record.

TESTING, HOMEWORK, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, AND ANY WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- In the case of any testing situation, homework assignments, oral presentations, or write-ups that will be graded, a student obtaining unauthorized information about scenarios or test content in advance of their own test is an honor code violation.
- In the case of any testing situation, homework assignments, oral presentations, or write-ups that will be graded, any student sharing information about scenarios or test content prior to another student's test or turning in their assignments is considered an honor code violation.
- In the case of any testing situation, homework assignments, oral presentations, or write-ups that will be graded, the work that you turn in is meant to be your own. Collaboration, without the expressed direction to do so by the course director, constitutes an honor code violation.

HISTOTECHNOLOGY PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The Histotechnology (HTL) program publishes technical standards for admission, defined as “physical, cognitive and behavioral abilities required for satisfactory completion of all aspects of the curriculum and for entry into the profession.”

The technical standards for admission establish the expectations and abilities considered essential for students admitted to the EVMS Histotechnology (HTL) program to achieve the level of competency required for graduation and competency in the practice for a Histotechnologist. Applicants to the program must possess independent ability, aptitude, and skills in the following areas – observation, communication, critical reasoning, motor & sensory functions, and behavioral & social attributes – as outlined below. It is expected that students also have sufficient computer skills and are comfortable with electronic communication and media to function as a Histotechnology student successfully and professionally.

OBSERVATION SKILLS TECHNICAL STANDARD

Demonstrate sufficient attention and proficiency in observation skills (visual, auditory, and tactile) in the lecture hall, laboratory, and clinical rotations and setting.

Indicators include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- Accurate observation and participation in the lecture hall, laboratory, and during clinical rotations at affiliated hospitals and other clinical settings.
- Accurate identification of appropriate pathology in frozen and fixed surgical specimens and gross findings in autopsy cases.
- Accurate visualization and discrimination of text, numbers, patterns, graphic illustrations, and findings in academic and clinical settings.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS TECHNICAL STANDARD

Demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal communication skills with other students, faculty, pathologists, surgeons, and other healthcare providers from different social backgrounds, cultural backgrounds, and varying personalities.

Indicators include but are not limited to the following examples:

- Clear, efficient, and intelligible articulation of the English language.
- Legible, efficient, and intelligible written of the English language.
- Ability to prepare and communicate concise oral and written summaries of protocols and procedural steps for slide preparations from specimens.
- Ability to provide appropriate descriptions of histological findings.
- Record laboratory procedures and provide clear, accurate, and precise descriptions of histological preparations.

CRITICAL REASONING SKILLS TECHNICAL STANDARD

Demonstrate critical reasoning skills required to undertake the full curriculum, achieve the level of competency required by the faculty, and meet the demands of a fully competent Histotechnologist. These skills include, but are not limited to, intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities.

Indicators include, but are not limited to, these examples:

- Accurate and efficient reading skills (English language).
- Demonstrate ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize information.
- Comprehend the spatial relationships of structures (e.g., three-dimensional relationships).
- Demonstrate the ability to acquire, retain, assimilate, and apply large amounts of complex, technical, and detailed general medical, specific pathological, and non-medical information.
- Demonstrate the ability to synthesize and apply concepts and information from various disciplines to deliver appropriate technical support.
- Demonstrate appropriate judgment in processing of cases, including planning, time management, extraction of critical information from review of staining protocols, and use of resources to obtain relevant information.

MOTOR AND SENSORY FUNCTION TECHNICAL STANDARD

Demonstrate sufficient motor and sensory function to perform typical functions of a Histotechnologist, including, but not limited to: physical examinations and assessment of specimens, tissue preparation and fixation techniques, and general functions that pertain to a career as a Histotechnologist. Indicators include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- Functional and sufficient sensory capacity (visual, auditory, and tactile) to adequately perform a complete examination of slide preparation results and elicit information gained from proper use of procedural protocols and maneuvers.
- Execute fine and gross motor movements with sufficient coordination, postural control, equilibrium, and hand-eye coordination to safely participate in laboratory sessions, use standard medical/laboratory instruments, provide appropriate summary and findings, and participate in performing basic and advanced histological and cytological procedures.
- Execute motor movements that demonstrate safety and efficiency in the various learning settings (i.e., classroom, laboratories, and clinical rotations, including appropriate negotiation of self in various clinical support environments).
- Physical stamina sufficient to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study, which may include prolonged periods of sitting, standing and/or rapid ambulation.
- Coordination of motor skills necessary to respond to “on-call” emergency situations quickly and appropriately as may be needed for the medical or Allied-Health discipline.

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES TECHNICAL STANDARD

Demonstrate the behavioral and social attributes vital to participation in a professional program and service as a practicing professional Histotechnologist.

Indicators include but are not limited to the following examples:

- Possess personal qualities that facilitate effective peer interactions (e.g., compassion, empathy, integrity, honesty, benevolence, confidentiality).
- Possess the emotional health required for full utilization of mental faculties (including judgment, orientation, affect and cognition).
- Ability to establish rapport and develop mature and effective professional relationships with faculty, professional peers, the public, and other members of the medical profession team.
- Demonstrate impartial motives, attitudes and values in roles, functions, and relationships.
- Communicate and interact with, in a non-judgmental way, persons who differ from oneself and one’s beliefs in a variety of ways, including but not limited to: gender, age, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, culture, creed, military status, sexual orientation and identity, and religious or spiritual beliefs.
- Ability to monitor and react appropriately to one’s own emotional needs and responses.
- Display appropriate flexibility, adaptability, composure, and emotional stability during periods of high stress or uncertainty associated with didactic and clinical encounters and environments.
- Ability to accurately follow oral and written directions with prompt completion of all responsibilities in the classroom and clinical setting.
- Compliance with standards, policies, and practices set forth in the program handbook.

These standards will serve as prerequisites for entrance, continuation, promotion, and graduation from the Histotechnology program. Students and applicants to the Histotechnology program must be prepared to meet the technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, to complete

the program, and indicate possession of such ability prior to their matriculation into the program and during registration for each semester.

Note that the use of an intermediary (a person trained to perform essential skills on behalf of the student) is not permitted.

EVMS must maintain the integrity of the curriculum and preserve those elements deemed essential to the education of a Histotechnologist, and cannot compromise the health and safety of other students or health officials.

Inquiry by the program faculty and staff regarding disability is strictly prohibited. The Histotechnologist Program, in accordance with EVMS policy and as delineated by federal and Virginia law, does not discriminate in admissions, educational programs or employment against any individual based on that individual's disability, and will make good faith efforts at providing reasonable accommodation as required. However, the program reserves the right not to admit or register students who cannot meet the technical standards, or who would constitute a direct threat to the health and safety of others.

Histotechnology Program applicants or students who may have questions regarding these technical standards, or who believe they may need to request reasonable accommodation to meet the standards, are encouraged to contact the EVMS Disability Officer by email at studentdisability@evms.edu or by phone at 757-446-7261.

Revealing a disability is voluntary; however, such disclosure is necessary before any accommodations may be made in the learning environment or in the program's procedures. Information regarding disabilities is handled in a confidential manner.

DISABILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

REQUESTING AN ACCOMMODATION

To begin the accommodation process, a student must self-identify to the EVMS Student Disability Committee through the Student Disability Officer, declare the disability (or suspected disability) in writing, request accommodations, and complete an intake meeting with the Student Disability Officer. The student must submit documentation that meets the criteria as outlined in the **Student Guide to Disability Accommodations**: Section IV, General Disability Documentation Guidelines and Accommodations History. This documentation should be submitted with the **Educational Accommodations Request Form**, or as soon after as possible. Failure to provide the required documentation could result in a prolonged accommodation process due to insufficient documentation. Inactive files are closed at the end of each semester.

All requests for accommodations and supporting documentation are reviewed by the Student Disability Committee to determine a student's eligibility for new or continued accommodations.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR TESTING

EVMS Students with an approved accommodation for testing from the EVMS Disability Officer will take all computer-based and written exams in the testing room in Lewis Hall. These exams will be proctored. Examination procedures will be distributed once the accommodation notice is received by the Histotechnology Program.

TESTING PROCEDURES

Computer based examinations using web-based testware (such as ExamSoft and ExamMonitor™):

- All tests and graded materials are sequestered throughout the Histotechnology program. Students will be given the opportunity to review their test or quiz entries under direct supervision, then the material will be collected and archived.
- All students must have a laptop computer meeting the EVMS minimum requirements for computer-based examinations.
- Minimum computer requirements are published on the EVMS website and will be periodically reviewed and revised. Course directors will make examinations available for download by students at least 24 hours before the scheduled test time.
- Students must download the examination to their laptop computers as instructed before the time that the examination is scheduled to begin.
- If a student experiences any difficulty with the exam or ExamSoft, the proctor must be notified.
- Once the exam has been completed, students must ensure that their examination is uploaded to ExamSoft successfully before leaving the examination room. Failure to upload the exam prior to leaving the exam room may be considered an honor code violation.
- During testing on the computer, as with any testing, the desktop must be cleared of all unauthorized materials. All unauthorized papers, bags, recording devices, phones, or other materials are to be removed from the desktop. The desktop should be clear except for limited materials authorized by the course director.

Use of “scrap paper” during computer-based exams:

- Scrap paper will be provided by the course director for each exam where it would be useful. The student will not provide their own paper.
- Any scrap paper authorized during a test must remain blank until the student begins their computer-based examination, and the test software is running.
- Any writing on the scrap paper before the student’s individual test has been started (other than student name) may be considered an honor code violation.
- At the conclusion of the computer-based examination, the scrap paper will be collected in a manner determined by the course director. The student may not keep the scrap paper for any reason.
- Once the student has completed the exam and the exam has successfully been uploaded, the scrap paper must be turned in to the proctor and the student must exit the exam room.
- Use of the scrap paper for reasons other than calculations, remembering short lists, or diagramming, may be considered an unauthorized testing aid and reported to the Honor Council.

EXAMINATION RESCHEDULES

ANTICIPATED RE-SCHEDULE:

Any request to take an exam at a time other than the regularly scheduled date and time should be submitted in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled exam date. There must be documented extenuating circumstances that prevent the student from taking an exam on the scheduled date, as well as justification for requesting a re-scheduling of the exam. The student must contact the program director and course director in writing.

- There are no exams that are scheduled “early” to accommodate personal schedules.
- The student **MUST** be prepared to take the exam on the day they return to classes.
- This is a confidential process.
- No exams will be returned to students for review of entries or content discussed until all re-scheduled exams have been completed. However, obtained grades can be released.

UNANTICIPATED RESCHEDULE:

Requests to take an exam late due to an unanticipated absence (acute illness, injury, or immediate family emergency) on the date of the exam must be initiated by the student and submitted in writing to the program director and course director as soon as feasible.

- The program director and course director will determine scheduling (time & location) of the make-up exam.
- The student **MUST** be prepared to take the exam on the day she/he/they return to class.
- This is a confidential process between the student, program director, and course director.
- An unanticipated emergency that affects the teaching faculty could result in an unanticipated exam or quiz rescheduling.

GRADES FOR RESCHEDULED EXAMINATIONS:

Rescheduled exams will be recorded as outlined below for written exams (or pass/non-pass for competency assessments):

- **EXCUSED:** Students who miss an exam because of illness, injury, or family emergency must provide a reasonable form of proof to the course director and/or program director to be allowed to take the exam at 100%.
- **UNEXCUSED:** By default, the maximum recorded score for re-scheduled exams is 85% of the total points allocated for that exam.
- Students who miss an exam for reasons other than illness, injury, or family emergencies must explain their situation to the program director who may (in extraordinary circumstances) convene a faculty meeting to render a decision as to whether the student should be granted the ability to take the make-up exam at 100% of possible points, or be granted the default maximum recorded score of 85% of the total points for the rescheduled exam.
- Rescheduled exams with excused absences may contain 10 to 20% new questions at the discretion of the course director. Rescheduled exams for unexcused absences can have 100% new questions at the discretion of the course director.

LATE CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

The maximum recorded score for assignments received after the original due date is 85% of the total points allocated for that assignment in any course unless the course director or program director has granted an extension. Submission of late assignments as a tactic to gain study time for exams is discouraged and enforced by implementation of the following policy:

A pattern of late assignments (second offense or greater frequency) in the same course will result in additional decrements in the allocated total points awarded for the graded assignment with the following breakdown:

- 1st unexcused late assignment = 85% total points maximum
- 2nd unexcused late assignment = 80% total points maximum

- 3rd unexcused late assignment = 75% total points maximum
- 4th unexcused late assignment = 70% total points maximum
- 5th or greater number of unexcused late assignment = no points awarded.

EXAMINATION REVIEW POLICY

For some courses in the Histotechnology program, review sessions for summative examinations are an integral component of the course. These review requirements and scheduling are subject to change at the discretion of the course director and may necessitate changes on short notice. These tend to be courses that are shared with other programs at EVMS. The review sessions will be scheduled by the course director within *one week* of the examination date, allowing the course director to evaluate exam results and performance of individual test items prior to the conducting of the review. Only in extenuating circumstances, as deemed by the course director(s), will an examination review be given outside of the scheduled examination review time. Review sessions will not occur for summative (final) exams.

The goal of the review session is for each student to review the questions again, and determine how their personal thought process may have led to a correct or incorrect answer choice. Faculty may also use the exam review as a time to revisit key concepts.

When review sessions are held, they will be conducted as follows:

- All books, food, writing implements, paper, backpacks, phones, and **any recording capable devices** will be left in the hallway. No recording capable devices may enter the classroom.
- For a scheduled review at any point during the academic day, each individual student will be responsible for moving all personal belongings out of the room, even if you will not personally be attending the review. Drinks may be allowed at the discretion of the course director.
- Each student will check into the exam review by obtaining their personal answer sheet from a faculty member and will not be allowed to leave the exam review at any point prior to the completion of the review. Check out will be by returning the personal answer sheet to a faculty member. All answer sheets should be accounted for at the end of the review.
- The only access to paper you will have is your individual test answer sheet. No marks may be made on the sheet.
- The review will serve as an opportunity to initially view the questions and answers to gauge your thought process regarding how you answered each question. Additional concept discussion by a faculty member, to aid the understanding of a particular subject, may occur. New material will not be introduced during exam review sessions.
- Inquiry regarding a test item or a request for additional discussion must follow the following algorithm:
 - **Step 1.** Consult your notes.
 - **Step 2.** Consult your book and/or assigned readings.
 - **Step 3.** If a lack of clarity or questions remains, wait a minimum of 24 hours from the conclusion of the exam review, then email the course director(s) to schedule an in-person discussion regarding any questions or concerns regarding the material. Emails must be sent no later than 5 business days following the 24-hour period after the exam review. Except in rare circumstances, this process should occur in the timeframe of 1-7 days following the review session.
 - Inquiry and discussion outcome will be at the discretion of the course director.

- Professional behavior is always expected during the review session, email communication, and during any post-review discussions. Any deviation from this standard may result in dismissal of the student from the review/meeting and a written letter of counseling in the student record.
- Attendance at the scheduled review session:
 - Is highly recommended for students attaining a score less than or equal to 80%.
 - Those scoring less than 70% MUST attend the examination review sessions AND participate in the Learning Improvement Process (LIP) described in the student handbook. Failure to attend the expected review sessions will be viewed as insufficient student engagement in the educational process, may result in a professionalism discussion, and may be considered in deliberations by the academic progress committee (should this be necessary).

HISTOTECHNOLOGY PROGRAM CORE COMPETENCIES

Upon completion of the Histotechnology Program, students will be able to perform the following **tasks and functions** at the level of a graduate Histotechnologist:

1. **Academic:** Embedding, sectioning, H&E, special stains, surgical pathology, microtomy, cytotomy, and frozen sections. Administrative & managerial duties.
2. **Professionalism:** Basic knowledge and skills in medical ethics and practice of professionalism. Knowledge of confidentiality requirements (HIPAA), standards of practice, and legal parameters for practicing as a Histotechnologist.
3. **Educational Teaching:** Basic knowledge and skills in educational methodologies.
4. **Specimen and Tissue Processing:** Students will demonstrate the ability to prepare, describe, dissect, and process human tissue including: Accessioning, gross description and dissection of simple surgical or biopsy specimens, processing of tissues for histology and microscopic analysis, specimen imaging, and processing of tissue for ancillary/special studies.
5. **Staining (Routine & Special):** Students will demonstrate the ability to treat tissues for histologic processing. Identify and apply histochemical analysis using routine and any special staining techniques or procedures necessary for completion of tissue examination for histopathological analysis.
6. **Frozen Sections:** Students will demonstrate the ability to submit tissues for histologic processing. Identify and apply frozen section techniques and procedures to be used in assistance of a pathological intraoperative diagnosis including histochemical analysis, and any special histochemical procedural requirements for investigative and/or clinical evaluation.
7. **Immunohistochemistry:** Applications, including principles and methodologies, performance on tests, problem solving, troubleshooting techniques, and the interpretation of procedures and results of laboratory services for all major areas practiced in the contemporary histopathology laboratory.
8. **Molecular Diagnostic Markers:** The student will develop knowledge of immunohistochemical reagents and antibodies that can provide adjunctive diagnostic information or can be used as determinants of cell differentiation. The student will acquire familiarity with commonly used analytes in immunohistochemical techniques that can provide prognostic data not available from routine histological procedures. The student will be capable of testing proper controls and conducting semi-quantitative assessment of the analyte.
9. **Surgical Specimens:** Students will demonstrate the ability to prepare, describe and dissect small biopsies from human tissue and simple gross surgical specimens including: accessioning, gross description and dissection of surgical specimens, processing of tissues for histology and microscopic analysis, specimen imaging, and submission of tissue for ancillary/special studies.

10. **Cytology:** Cytopreparations and morphology interpretation skills are required. Knowledge of basic histology, staining and immunohistochemistry applied to cytology specimens. Familiarity with the use of a cyto-spin instrument. Process specimens acquired by FNA technique.
11. **Cell Culture:** Aseptic techniques, use of a laminar flow hood and incubator, development and understanding of the physiochemical properties of various media, selection and propagation of cell lines, preparation and sterilization of apparatus, reagents, media.
12. **Laboratory Administration & Management:** The student will have knowledge of practices pertaining to quality assurance/quality improvement and will have working knowledge of equipment used in the histology laboratory including digital slide scanners, processors, embedding stations, microtome, cryostats, light microscopes and stainers. The student will have basic knowledge and essential skills in the areas of laboratory safety, information systems, and laboratory administration/management. She/he/they will have the skills to perform duties related to administrative maintenance of a histology laboratory as it applies to protocols, reports, budgetary matters, and data management. The student will maintain adequate laboratory inventory, cleanliness, and governmental regulatory adherence. The student will learn principles of interpersonal and interdisciplinary communications and practices of administration, problem-solving, supervision, and team-building skills.

HISTOTECHNOLOGY PROGRAM UNIQUE STANDARDS:

Upon completion of the Histotechnology Program students will be able to perform the following **tasks and functions** at the level of a graduate Histotechnologist:

1. Graduates shall have a solid foundation of knowledge supportive of practice as a Histotechnologist to include the areas of embedding, sectioning, routine H&E, special staining, surgical pathology, and frozen sections. Graduates shall understand the histotechnology laboratory techniques and operations, including pre-analytic, analytic, and post-analytic functions. Graduates shall be able to execute the duties of preparation, performance, and reporting of technical requirements pertaining to the histotechnology laboratory.
2. Graduates will conduct themselves in an ethical manner consistent with professional guidelines and will adhere to a professional code of conduct. Exhibit personal conduct in a manner consistent with professional requirements and reflecting an understanding of the scope of practice for histotechnologist.
3. Students will exercise the principles and practices of professional conduct and role-modeling. Apply principles of interpersonal and interdisciplinary communications and skills.
4. The student should have proficiency to process pre-analytical variables such as tissue handling and treatment, fixation, decalcification, sectioning, treatment of glass slides, and regulation of water bath. Determination of proper analytical variables such as section thickness, selection of antibody clones and determination of proper concentration, immunohistochemical detection protocols, antigen retrieval protocols, and incubation times. Students will exercise postanalytical skills of interpretation, and reporting of positive and negative results, design of appropriate controls, interpretation of immunoreactivity test results, and the ability to troubleshoot immunostaining results.
5. The students will exhibit functional knowledge and proficiency in the application of standard H&E stain as well as a variety of specialty stains to include: selective connective tissue, hematologic, lipids, carbohydrates, and nervous tissue.
6. Students shall be able to conduct the comprehensive steps necessary to process a frozen section. This involves cutting sections on a cryostat and performing hand H&E staining for pathologists in the surgical setting or dermatologists for MOHS procedure.

7. The student will acquire a high level of autonomous proficiency in the following: laboratory calculations, tissue fixation, specimen orientation and processing, embedding, microtomy, staining of hematoxylin and eosin (H&E), mounting media, slide refurbishing and repair, use of laboratory instrumentation, decalcification methods, enzyme histochemistry, immunohistochemistry, in situ hybridization techniques, and various conjugation methods for antigen detection.
8. Graduates shall understand basic theory, diagnostic/prognostic utility of commonly employed immunochemical markers, and shall have proficiency in basic procedural elements to use selected antibodies for evaluating tissue immunoreactivity using required laboratory standard guidelines set by College of American Pathologists (CAP) and FDA.
9. The student should have proficiency in the ability to prepare, dissect, process, and grossly describe biopsies of human tissue while appropriately documenting findings and facilitating additional testing as indicated.
10. The student will have knowledge of specimen collection, cytology stains, and slide preparation. The student will be trained for on-site microscopic review and photo-digitization of specimen. The student will have the ability to recognize basic cytopathological features.
11. The student will have working knowledge of aseptic techniques to generate and/or propagate a cell line and standardization of culture conditions including cell counting by hemocytometer, preparation, quantitation of reagents, and protocol for cell cryopreservation.
12. Graduates shall understand basic theory and regulatory requirements of a histology laboratory, and shall have proficiency in basic elements of required laboratory standard guidelines as set by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the American Society for Clinical Pathologists (ASCP).

CURRICULUM

HISTOTECHNOLOGY (HTL) PROGRAM CURRICULUM

FALL SEMESTER		
COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
HTL 500	Intro to Anatomical & Histological Laboratories	2
HTL 501	Medical Ethics (online component)	2
HTL 504	Anatomical Foundations (online component)	5
HTL 512	Histotechnology I	2
HTL 513	Histology for Health Professions	2
HTL 517	Laboratory Methods in Histotechnology	3
		16
SPRING SEMESTER		
COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
HTL 514	Pathology & Histological Terminology (online)	2
HTL 600	Clinical Clerkship Histotechnology Practicum 1	3
HTL 518	Special Histologic Staining Methods Lab Practicum	2
HTL 510	Pathophysiology	4
HTL 519	Advanced Lab Methods in Histology and Pathology	3
HTL 604	Lab Management University Cert Program (LMU) (online)	2
HTL 602	Practicum in Clinical Research Techniques	2
		18

SUMMER SEMESTER		
COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
HTL 603	*Clinical Clerkship Histotechnology Practicum 2	4
HTL 601	ASCP Leadership Course (online)	2
HTL 608	ASCP Certificate Exam Prep (online)	3
		9
Total Program Credits		43

DESCRIPTION OF CLINICAL CLERKSHIP

*The sequencing of clinical clerkship rotations varies from student to student.

Clinical electives available to students include student selected clinical sites when an affiliation agreement can be established and the program director, educational coordinator, and preceptor have determined that the clinical site will provide adequate training for the student to meet program standards.

Arrangements for clinical electives requires **proper planning on the part of the student well in advance to allow the establishment of appropriate collaborative affiliation agreements.**

Students should consult the *Histotechnology Supervised Clinical Practice (SCP) Guidebook* for details regarding student-initiated elective rotations and be familiar with the steps required to pursue such electives.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FALL SEMESTER:

HTL 500 Intro to Anatomical & Histological Laboratories (2 credit hours) Instructor: Mr. Kerwin Kolheffer, Ms. Alayna Gibbs: This course serves as an introduction to laboratory environments commonly seen in the practice of pathology and histotechnology, and fulfills training requirements necessary for continued study in the Histotechnology Program. Training will address blood-borne pathogen safety, laboratory safety, and handling of biohazardous materials and waste. Proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and laboratory regulations of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), OSHA, and the Joint Commission will also be addressed. Training in human subjects' research regulations and requirements (via CITI training) will also be a component of this course. As a requirement for completion of this course, students will attain a 2-year certification (by the American Heart Association) in Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (BLS-P). This course will also serve as an introduction to the functional, operational, and administrative aspects of laboratories including the histotechnology laboratory and surgical pathology suite.

HTL 501 Medical Ethics (online) (2 credit hours) Instructors: Georgetown Faculty YouTube Videos & Dr. Jorge Jacot: This is a hybrid course having both an online component and face-to-face classroom discussions. The course was developed by edX Inc., in collaboration with the faculty of Georgetown University, Kennedy Institute of Ethics. The course content and videos are equivalent to the PHLX101-03X course offered at Georgetown University. The in-house utilization of the course has supplemental features that include periodic interactive face-to-face classroom discussions on

selected topics and themes. These discussions, conducted either as Blackboard postings or as classroom exchanges, personalize the course content. The course presents five major themes of bioethics and each of the five major themes is highlighted by a classroom discussion on the topic. Each week, a new unit will become available to the students either online or via Blackboard. Presented in this course are the following themes: autonomy, bioethics and the human body, bioethics as it pertains to the beginning and end of life, and bioethics that have a global impact.

HTL 504 Anatomical Foundations (5 credit hours) Instructor: Dr. Paul Aravich: The course is divided into 4 modular units of learning which include: back & upper extremities, head & neck, thorax & abdomen, and pelvis & lower extremities. This course affords the student a coherent, sequential approach to the study of human anatomy at the gross level with applied clinical relationships. The general objective is for the experience of a visual concept of the human body to relate this to future *professional* settings. This experience is extrapolated by way of a virtual lab providing the student with the anatomical basis for understanding and appreciating the variations and complexities of the human body. Students should be able to demonstrate to each other all the different normal structures detailed in the student learning objectives for specific modules. Students should be able to integrate materials in a particular module to talk about clinical/surgical functions. These objectives are evaluated by clinical scenario types of questions on exams.

HTL 512 Histotechnology I (2 credit hours) Instructor: Dr. Jorge Jacot, Dr. Alberto Musto, Dr. Richard Conran, Ms. Alayna Gibbs, & Ms. Lauren Yoho: This course focuses on the laboratory skills required to function in a clinical or research histology facility including specimen acquisition and fixation, tissue processing, embedding, sectioning, and staining. Paraffin-based techniques with H&E/special stains are introduced. Essential laboratory calculations and problem-solving approaches are presented. The student is expected to gain experience in cryomicrotomy (frozen section) and microtomy. The student is introduced to the fundamental principles and mechanical steps of immunohistochemistry. Chemical and environmental safety issues are covered in-depth and emphasized. Proper record-keeping practices including quality control and quality assurance requirements are also reinforced. Responsible lab management procedures are emphasized including essential inventory control concerns, as well as instrumentation, care, quality assurance and maintenance.

HTL 513 Histology for Health Professions (2 credit hours) Instructors: Dr. Ambrozewicz, Dr. Lonart, Dr. Elzie, Ms. Lauren Yoho, Ms. Taylor Roten, Ms. Madison Barber, Ms. Lane Fortney: This course provides students with an understanding of the normal architecture of cells and an opportunity to gain an appreciation of how cellular components specialize to form primary tissues, and how these tissues give rise to organs and organ systems. The course allows for the evaluation of the structure-function relationships in normal cells, tissues, and organs. Students will acquire morphological pattern recognition and cell/tissue/organ identification skills at the light microscopic level and to a lesser extent at the electron microscope level through a lecture-lab combination, systems-based approach. Students will be introduced to proper use of a light microscope and essentials of microscopy. Utilizing light microscopes in a laboratory setting and on-line tutorials to recognize the morphology of structures, students will relate these structures to their function.

HTL 517 Laboratory Methods in Histotechnology (3 credit hours) Instructors: Dr. J. Jacot, Mr. Kerwin Kolheffer, Ms. Alayna Gibbs: This course focuses on essential laboratory skills, and prepares the student to obtain working knowledge of trouble-shooting skills and to develop skills for quality assurance and management. Topics such as grossing of small samples and specimen orientation are

emphasized. Students develop the necessary skills to oversee the budget management and inventory maintenance of a histology laboratory. Problem-solving skills are augmented by learning techniques in slide refurbishing and repairs.

SPRING SEMESTER:

HTL 514 Pathology & Histological Terminology (online) (2 credit hours) Instructor: Dr. Jorge Jacot:

This is an interactive online and self-paced guided course conducted using Quizlet. The course provides the student with an extensive vocabulary-building set of exercises in pathology as well as histology terminology. The course is constructed with multiple sets of self-educational exercises that instruct the student in: general rules governing medical nomenclature, general rules pertaining to plurality and pronunciation, exposes students to common medical, pathological and histological terminology, presents prefixes and suffixes of commonly used terms, and covers the AAPA suggested list of medical terms derived from the Robbins Pathology textbook and terminology employed in the Histotechnology: A Self-Instructional Textbook.

HTL 518 Special Histologic Staining Methods Lab Practicum (3 credit hours) Instructor: Ms. Alayna Gibbs:

The course highlights theory and protocols on special staining techniques for histopathology. The student develops theoretical and functional knowledge for preparation of tissue with various methods of fixation with an understanding of the characteristics of certain agents. Methods for decalcification and chelating agents are presented with procedures to determine proper endpoint. Laboratory practicum on the processing of tissue including dehydrating, clearing, impregnating, and embedding are conducted. Preparation of sections and developing microtomy skills are integral components of the laboratory practicum. Routine and special staining techniques and protocols are taught in detail and include methods for connective tissue, cytoplasmic granules, hematologic and nuclear elements, fats and lipids, carbohydrates and mucoproteins, pigments and minerals, nerve cells and neuronal fibers.

HTL 519 Advanced Lab Methods in Histology and Pathology (3 credit hours) Instructor: Dr. Lonart, Dr. Jorge Jacot, Dr. Richard Conran, Ms. Alayna Gibbs:

The techniques described and discussed are procedures in immunohistochemistry and in situ hybridization. Preparatory techniques for quantitative staining methods, enzyme histochemistry, and preparatory methods in cytopathology are stressed. The methods are taught in detail with conceptual principles of the technique and background material presented for each topic. Various methods for antigen detection are presented including avidin-biotin complex (ABC), peroxidase-antiperoxidase method and chromogen alternatives. Interpretation of results and problem-solving approaches are presented along with aids for troubleshooting. Antibody selection and quality control elements are discussed. Specialty enzymatic reaction stains, tissue preparation protocols, and direct smears for cytology are covered.

HTL 600 Clinical Clerkship Histotechnology Practicum 1 (3 credit hours) Instructor: Ms. Alayna Gibbs:

This course is the first Supervised Clinical Practice (SCP) component of the EVMS Histotechnology Program. This course consists of immersive clinical experiences in histology and histotechnology disciplines. Students will function under the direct supervision and guidance of site preceptors (Pathologists, Histotechnologists, or other appropriate laboratory professionals). These rotations include experiences in tissue processing, embedding, staining, immunohistochemistry, laboratory instrumentation, and exposure to the dynamics of laboratory management. The settings for these experiences could include local hospitals, community hospitals, larger private hospital complexes, and academic medical centers. Students will apply the knowledge and the skills

developed in previous didactical courses to develop skills necessary for clinical practice. This course will introduce the student to the demands of the working environment, and the expectations of a practicing Histotechnologist.

HTL 602 Practicum in Clinical Research Techniques (2 credit hours) Instructors: Dr. Jacot, Ms.

Alayna Gibbs: The student will develop working knowledge of laboratory techniques that are prevalent in a clinical research environment. The student will develop working knowledge of flow cytometry principles and methods for specimen preparation. Fundamentals of cell culture aseptic techniques, including primary cell isolation from tissue or propagation of established cell line, will be covered. Principles of microscopy and photo-documentation of micrographs and gross images, introduction to EM and confocal microscopy, laser capture microdissection techniques, and fundamentals of PCR are all included in the practicum.

HTL 604 Lab Management University Certificate Program (online) (2 credit hours) Instructor: Dr.

Jacot: This course uses the Lab Management University (LMU) self-paced online certificate program that improves competencies in laboratory management. It will teach the student practical, day-to-day skills needed to function successfully in a laboratory environment. All core concepts of laboratory management are introduced. The Fundamentals Certificate of Completion in Laboratory Management is awarded on completion of 25 courses across six core competencies: Leadership, Personnel Management, Operations, Financial Management, Informatics, and Compliance. Students select and complete 25 courses under the Fundamentals program at their own pace, receiving their Certificate of Completion in Laboratory Management upon successful completion. The certificate, however, is not a requirement for graduation from the program.

PATH 510 Pathophysiology (4 credit hours) Instructor: Dr. Conran, Dr. Jacot, Dr. Heise: A study of the cellular, organ, and system changes associated with human disease processes, and the physiologic responses associated with selected human pathologies. The course introduces students to clinical medicine by reviewing the pathophysiologic basis of the symptoms and signs of prevalent diseases.

SUMMER SEMESTER:

HTL 601 ASCP Leadership Course (online) (2 credits) Instructor: Dr. Jacot: Students will hone their leadership skills through 12 online on-demand courses. Through an advanced self-assessment and a self-paced program, participants gain insight into their current viewpoints on leadership topics, identify areas of growth, and use the knowledge gained to develop advanced leadership skills. Courses include a pre-course self-assessment to help participants discover insights into their own leadership behavior, styles, and preferences. Participants can download their self-assessment results for future reference. The course covers multiple areas of leadership, including: communication skills, self-awareness and feedback, leadership styles, organizational effectiveness, team dynamics, conflict resolution, stress coping skills, diversity, and inclusion. The courses can be taken in any order and all topics build upon each other to give deeper insights into participants' own leadership styles. Upon completion of the course, participants will receive a leadership certificate. The certificate, however, is not a requirement for graduation from the program. Students are expected to improve their leadership effectiveness through assessing and/or validating current knowledge or skills; acquiring and implementing new knowledge, skills, and techniques; acquiring and utilizing valid and reliable self-assessment tools and materials for self-study, performance assessment, and applying what they learned about their leadership styles, strengths, and growth opportunities.

HTL 603 Clinical Clerkship Histotechnology Practicum 2 HTL 603 (4 credit hours) Instructor: Ms. Alayna Gibbs: This course is the second Supervised Clinical Practice (SCP) component of the EVMS Histotechnology Program. This course consists of immersive clinical experiences in the various disciplines where Histotechnologists may serve. Students will function under the direct supervision and guidance of site preceptors (Pathologists, Histotechnologists, or other appropriate laboratory professionals). These rotations include experiences in tissue processing, embedding, staining, immunohistochemistry, laboratory instrumentation and exposure to the dynamics of laboratory management. Students will continue to develop and refine the skills and abilities of a practicing Histotechnologist; an emphasis will be placed in functioning with greater autonomy and efficiency. Students will expand their repertoire of histotechnology skills and perform technical procedures of progressively increasing complexity while exhibiting independence. Learning objectives addressed in prior courses or clinical rotations will be reinforced and emphasized. This course will prepare the student to meet the demands of the working environment and expectations of a practicing Histotechnologist. Upon completion of this course, students will be fully competent in all essential duties of a Histotechnologist.

HTL 608 ASCP Certification Exam Prep (3 credit hours) Instructor: Ms. Alayna Gibbs: This course is designed as a comprehensive review, study guide, and self-evaluation tool with the goal of preparation for the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP-BOC) in Histotechnology certification examination. Students will have access to pre-course and post-course practice examinations, and interactive study material. Appropriate reference texts will be available as well as other review material. This course will provide the opportunity for students to synthesize material from multiple courses and disciplines to prepare for the national exam. The course will begin with a pre-course practice test to evaluate individual strengths and weaknesses in preparation of review for the ASCP-BOC Histotechnology Examination. Students will then be assigned additional study material covering various specific technical areas to include: fixation, processing, microtomy, staining, and laboratory operations. Practice examinations will allow the student to track their progress and identify points of weakness. **The ASCP Certification Exam is administered by the American Society for Clinical Pathologists (ASCP).**

ABOUT ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT AT EVMS

Academic Development helps learners in the EVMS Community develop and enhance their range of academic skills, strategies, and behaviors needed to perform in competitive academic and dynamic professional environments.

SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Academic Development provides resources and services for students to promote academic success and to balance the demands of academics, research, clinical activities, personal life commitments, and service to their community through:

- **Academic Counseling:** Academic Counseling helps learners in the EVMS Community acquire more effective and efficient academic skills.
- **Peer Tutoring:** Content-specific peer tutoring is coordinated through Academic Development with authorization by the course director.

LOCATION AND HOURS

Academic Development is centrally located in Student Affairs inside Lewis Hall:

700 W Olney Road, Norfolk, VA 23507

Academic Development services are available by appointment Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Resources can be accessed on the EVMS intranet 24/7.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops are held throughout the year and each one focuses on specific skills and strategies to maximize student success.

Students who are experiencing difficulties in their courses, or who are experiencing life events that impact their progress or performance in the program, may schedule an appointment with the course director or the program director whenever the need arises.

Students must be aware of the importance of self-monitoring their GPA in order to ensure they will meet academic progress and/or graduation requirements.

GRADES

DIDACTIC YEAR GRADES

Histotechnology Program DIDACTIC GRADES		
PERCENTAGE	GPA	LETTER GRADE
100 – 94	4.00	A
93 – 90	3.67	A-
89 – 87	3.33	B+
86 – 84	3.00	B
83 – 80	2.67	B-
79 – 77	2.33	C+
76 – 74	2.00	C
Percentages below this level are not passing grades:		
73 – 70	1.67	C-
69 – 67	1.33	D+
66 – 64	1.00	D
63 – 60	0.67	D-
59 or less	0.00	F
An exam score of less than 70 requires the Learning Improvement Process (LIP) with the course director- see the pertinent section in this student handbook.		

For those courses in the curriculum that are designed pass/fail the following scale will apply:

Code	Description	Percentage
H	Honors	91%-100%
HP	High Pass	81%-90%
NP	Non-Pass	0%-69%
P	Pass	70-80%

Mathematical rules for rounding to the nearest whole number based on two decimal places apply. For example, a final grade of 93.45 would round to a 94 (A). A final grade of 93.44 would round to a 93 (A-).

Performance in didactic courses is commonly assessed by written exams, quizzes, assignments, small group assignments, or oral presentations.

During the didactic coursework of the program, grades for cognitive performances will be recorded as a raw score and a percentage. At the end of each course the percentage scores will be converted to a grade, A - F, for each of the core Histotechnologist courses.

To remain in good academic standing, all Histotechnology students must maintain a minimum semester GPA of 3.00, receive a C or better in all letter-grade rated courses, and a P (pass) or better in all pass/fail related courses. Failure of maintaining a semester term GPA of 3.00 will place the student in *term probation*. Two consecutive *term probations* (GPA below 3.00) without demonstrable trend towards academic improvement could result in dismissal from the program. For the student to be retained in the program an overall cumulative GPA of 3.00 must be maintained.

A grade of D, F, or NP in any course may result in academic dismissal from the program. Additionally, a student may not progress to the clinical portion of the program with an overall cumulative GPA of less than 3.00 at the end of the 2nd (spring) semester of the program.

CHALLENGING A GRADE

- **Erroneous Grade Recorded:** If a student receives an incorrect final course grade, he/she should immediately contact the academic director to verify the error. Errors will be changed by a change of grade form completed by the course instructor and the program director. A change of grade form will be submitted to the Registrar for proper notification and correction of the grade on the student's record.
- **Inappropriate Grade Reported:** If a student feels that they have been unfairly graded in any course in the didactic or clinical portions of the program, they must initially report their concerns to the course director(s) in writing. In the case of the clinical clerkship, that would be the educational coordinator or preceptor. If this does not resolve the issue for the student, the grade result may be appealed to the program director in writing within 7 days of receiving the initial grade report. The program director will investigate the grade report and any concerns expressed by the student, then decide about whether the grade should be changed. If desired, the student may appeal the program director's decision about a grade to the dean of the School of Health Professions in writing and within 7 days of the report of a decision by the program director. The dean's decision will be final.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Standards of acceptable performance for courses are communicated to students in writing via the syllabus and orally reviewed at the introduction of the course.

A student must achieve and maintain the required 3.00 semester Grade Point Average (GPA) to remain in good academic standing and graduate from the Histotechnology program. As always, GPAs will be rounded to 2 decimal places.

The policy of 3.00 or better in a graduate professional program has been adopted to better ensure student's preparation for future sequential course work. Additionally, any course grade of D, F, or NP will indicate unsatisfactory academic progress. In most instances, a student will not progress in the program after earning one of these grades.

REQUIRED STUDENT ACADEMIC PROGRESS MONITORING AND CONSULT SESSIONS WITH THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

A progress analysis is conducted with the student to provide guidance on academic performance and mid- semester progress monitoring. Term grade and cumulative GPA analysis are conducted along with speculative projections to provide the student with concrete metrics of required and expected performances. Student self-assessment and reflection of projected performance is requested and compared to actual outcome performance. Speculative projections of GPA scenarios are discussed, and an impact analysis conducted regarding academic probation, requirements for remediation, and eligibility of student's progress to the 3rd semester clinical clerkships. Problematic areas are identified, and the student is counseled to seek specific guidance from the course directors or other resources that could assist the student.

When required, a plan-of-action is implemented to foster student success during the didactical coursework year. The frequency of the consult is individualized and conducted on a case-by-case basis and upon student request. At minimum, each student is consulted near mid-term of a semester and re-evaluated at completion of the semester. Speculative projections of required minimal performance for the upcoming semester are drawn based on cumulative GPA.

REMEDICATION

DIDACTIC COURSES OF THE PROGRAM

- Learning Improvement Process (LIP): When a student earns a score of less than 70 on an examination, the student will be required to complete the Learning Improvement Process.
- The purpose of the LIP is to attempt to ensure that students who perform poorly on an exam can address or correct any apparent deficiency in knowledge or comprehension of the material so that this deficiency does not carry forward to other exams or future coursework. The Learning Improvement Process is not a process that changes a score on the completed exam.
- The LIP will encompass specific concepts related to course content, lecture materials, and objectives in which the student's knowledge was deficient. The method or procedure for mastering the material will be left to the discretion of the course director/Instructor in consultation with the program director.
- Once the student receives their exam grade, **it is the student's responsibility** to seek out the course director to initiate the LIP session(s). If the student does not engage in the LIP, this is considered a professionalism infraction and will be placed in the student's file.
- This process may take one of several forms:
 - instructor and student may review exam questions to determine areas of misunderstanding and/or how to approach test questions,
 - a group or individual oral presentation that demonstrates competence in the areas tested, OR
 - some combination of the above

- the method(s) employed in the LIP will be selected based on the needs of the student and are at the discretion of the course director
- **TIMING:** Except in unusual circumstances, this process must be started and completed within five (5) school days after the grades of the test or assignment have been posted.
- **END OF 2nd SEMESTER:** In the event a student must participate in the Learning Improvement Process at the end of the second semester at the completion of the didactical courses, he/she/they may not start their clinical rotations until the course director and program director determines that the student has sufficient grasp of the tested material.
- **APPEALS:** Any student who does not agree with the assessment of the course director or program director during the Learning Improvement Process may appeal directly to the Dean of the School of Health Professions.
- **COMPLIANCE:** Failure to comply with the Learning Improvement Process requirement may be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including, dismissal from the program. Non-compliance with the Learning Improvement Process may be documented by the course director and sent to the student's academic record for consideration by the Histotechnology Program Student Progress Committee.

HISTOTECHNOLOGY STUDENT PROGRESS COMMITTEE

The Histotechnology Student Progress Committee is comprised of the Histotechnology Program's full-time faculty designated by the course director(s), the program director, educational coordinator, and if required, the preceptor. A simple majority of members is required to form a quorum and a simple majority vote is required to obtain a judgment. Minority views are expressed as well.

This committee will convene when requested by program leadership to determine an appropriate plan for students who earn a D, F, or NP (Non-Pass) in any course or when they meet criteria for potential dismissal for cumulative GPA or recurring probation status. The committee may also convene when dismissal is being considered for any non-academic reasons.

Student progress is discussed at each faculty meeting to alert faculty and academic advisors to student academic or non-academic (behavioral) issues. At the end of each semester, if necessary, the Student Progress Committee will meet to discuss academic progress issues for individual students. The program director, or a designee, will present relevant information contained in the student's academic and advisor records for the committee to consider. When dismissal is being considered, a secret ballot will be employed for committee members to indicate their vote for the options being considered.

ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC PROBATION

Any student who fails to achieve the required 3.00 semester GPA will automatically be placed on academic "term probation". Once a student is placed on academic term probation, they must achieve a 3.00 or better GPA in the following didactic semester, or they will be at risk of academic dismissal from the program. Two consecutive semesters with a semester GPA of less than 3.00 (without measurable improvement) may result in academic dismissal from the program.

Any course grade of D, F, or NP may result in academic dismissal from the program. When there are extenuating circumstances leading to the failure, the student may be invited to repeat the course in the following academic year at the discretion of the Student Progress Committee.

The Student Progress Committee can review and recommend one of the following options to the program director:

- Dismissal from the program
- If there are extenuating circumstances, the committee can recommend a remediation plan tailored to the student's individual weaknesses, and if successful in remediation, will be allowed to continue in a probationary status.

Students on probation or at risk for probation must meet for scheduled consults with the course director to discuss academic progress, study habits, and test-taking skills. Students who have been found to be in violation of the academic integrity standards or the honor code during the didactic portion of the program may be academically dismissed from the program, depending on the results of the Honor Council process and any imposed penalties.

Non-academic probation may be imposed by the Histotechnology Student Progress Committee or the dean of the School of Health Professions after review of relevant non-academic issues relating to a student. A student placed on non-academic probation during the program will remain on probation for the remainder of the program.

CLINICAL CLERKSHIP GRADES

Based on total composite performance scores, SCP grades will be recorded on the transcript as follows:

Percentile	Grade	GPA
100 - 94	A	4.00
93 - 90	A-	3.67
89 - 87	B+	3.33
86 - 84	B	3.00
83 - 80 (80 minimum Passing)	B-	2.67
79 - 77	C+	2.33
76 - 74	C	2.00
73 - 70	C-	1.67
69 - 67	D+	1.33
66 - 64	D	1.00
63 - 60	D-	0.67
59 or less	F	0.00

Please note that 80-83% will yield a grade of B- and a resulting GPA of 2.67.

A cumulative 3.0 GPA is required for graduation.

REMEDICATION IN THE CLINICAL CLERKSHIP

- Refer to SCP Guidebook for complete guidance.
- Note that grading of clinical rotations remains the responsibility of the program with guidance provided by the clinical preceptor. The circumstances surrounding a failure of a Supervised Clinical Practice (SCP) experience will be thoroughly investigated by program personnel prior to posting an official grade.

ENTERING THE CLINICAL CLERKSHIP(S) ON PROBATION

A student may enter the clinical clerkship on probation if they earned a 2nd semester GPA of less than 3.00, but continued to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or if they advanced to the clinical clerkship after a period of remediation.

A student entering the 3rd semester clinical clerkship on probation for any reason is subject to the following:

- They will remain on probation for the entire clinical clerkship.
- They MAY be subject to dismissal as the result of a single failure (non-pass) grade on a clinical rotation after review of the circumstances and a determination by the educational coordinator, clinical preceptor, program director, and Student Progress Committee.

Probationary status will be considered in all cases of academic or non-academic failures and subsequent review by the Student Progress Committee.

PROBATION IN THE 3rd SEMESTER CLINICAL CLERKSHIP(S)

If a student receives a grade below 80% for a clinical rotation in the clinical clerkship, the following will occur:

- The reason for the grade will be thoroughly investigated by the EC. The student may be referred to the Student Progress Committee of the Histotechnology program for consideration of dismissal from the program if deemed appropriate by the EC & PD.
- If granted the opportunity to repeat the rotation, the student shall repeat the SCP at a different site. All grades will be averaged to yield a final semester grade.
- The student will immediately be placed on academic probation for the rotation at a different site. Probationary status will continue for the remainder of the clinical remediation.
- Any subsequent grade below 80% on any remaining clinical rotation will be grounds for dismissal from the program. The student's situation will be reviewed by the Student Progress Committee and a recommendation to the program director will be made.
- If the student chooses to challenge the grade received, the procedures outlined below for challenging a grade will apply.

A grade below 80% in the repeated rotation or any subsequent rotation may result in dismissal from the program. Additionally, in accordance with Histotechnology program requirements, a 3.00 GPA must be maintained.

REPEATING A COURSE

Didactic coursework of the program:

Because the courses of the program are provided in sequence and each course is only taught once per year, it is possible that the required course will have to be remediated simultaneously with other ongoing courses at the discretion of the course director and program director. Not all courses lend themselves to be readily or instantly remediated.

Therefore, if a student is granted the opportunity to repeat a course, it may have to be with the next class of students. This would require the student to become a member of the class following their original graduating class.

ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

Academic dismissal will be considered by the Histotechnology Program Student Progress Committee in the following circumstances:

- D, F, or a non-Pass grade in any course in the didactic courses of the program.
- Two consecutive semesters with a GPA less than 3.00
- An Honor Council conviction resulting in a penalty of course failure or dismissal from the school.

NON-ACADEMIC PENALTIES OR DISMISSAL

Students are expected to always comply with all EVMS policies, including but not limited to: the EVMS Code of Conduct, Code of Student Conduct, Standards of Conduct for the Teacher-Learner Relationship, Honor Code, and program technical standards. Disciplinary action related to non-academic matters may include warning, counseling, a corrective action plan, probation, and/ or dismissal based on the circumstances and judgment of the program director.

DISMISSAL

In each of the cases where a student is at risk for dismissal, the Histotechnology Program Student Progress Committee will meet to discuss and deliberate the student's situation. They will then make a recommendation to the Histotechnology program director, which can also render a deliberation.

APPEALING DISMISSAL

Students should be thoroughly familiar with School of Health Professions' grievance and appeals policies and procedures. Students may appeal academic and non-academic program decisions to the dean of the School of Health Professions.

READMISSION POLICY

A student may be readmitted to the program for one of the following reasons:

- Student Progress Committee recommendation to the program director (typically this return would be in a probationary status).
- Students who request and are granted a leave of absence from the program for a valid reason, and who are granted permission to return to the program.
- Life events that required an extended absence from the program.
- As a result of the appeals process through the dean's office.

In all cases above, the student must have written permission to return to the program from the Histotechnology program director.

STUDENT PROGRESS AT THE END OF SECOND SEMESTER

REMEDIATED PROGRESSION TO THE CLINICAL CLERKSHIP

The program requires a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 to graduate from the program (as is customary at most graduate training programs). Therefore, to progress to the clinical clerkship of the program, the cumulative GPA must be 3.00 or higher at the conclusion of the 2nd semester. The following outlines procedures for remediation in preparation for the clinical clerkship:

1. Decision for remediation or dismissal from the program: Note: GPAs will be rounded to 2 decimal places by Excel.
 - a. Students whose cumulative GPA rounds to 2.94 or less will be dismissed from the program.
 - b. Students whose cumulative GPA rounds to 2.95 to 2.99, would be considered for a remediated progression if the progress committee agrees that:
 - i. Extenuating circumstances exist(ed) for the student.
 - ii. The progress committee agrees that the student has (or will have) the requisite skills and knowledge to progress despite of their grades, after a period of remediation.
 - iii. Students that elected to work concomitantly during the didactic portion of the program and were counseled to discontinue work to improve academic standing complied with the request to discontinue work (termination of employment must be verified).
 - iv. The student has taken advantage of opportunities for recommended student support services.
2. Student academic records will be reviewed for efforts by faculty advisors to support the student during all didactic semesters.
 - a. Students who have documented referrals for tutoring, study and testing evaluations, or other student support services will be evaluated by the progress committee in terms of whether they took advantage of available student support services.
 - b. Failure to follow through on recommendations may be viewed unfavorably by the committee when determining eligibility for remediation.
1. The individual remediation plan will outline the following in detail:
 - a. Subjects and skills to be remediated
 - b. An instruction and study plan
 - c. How each component will be assessed
 - d. A schedule for each activity
 - e. A schedule for each assessment
 - f. Grade criteria for each form of assessment, and
 - g. What the result of unsatisfactory remediation would be (i.e., dismissal)

Students who successfully progress to the clinical clerkship by remediation will also enter the 3rd semester clinical clerkship on probation. This probationary status would be taken into consideration if the student were to receive a non-passing grade on a clinical rotation.

Remediated progression to the 3rd semester clinical clerkship of program is meant to be a rare occurrence based on the judgments of the Histotechnology Program Progress Committee's best efforts to evaluate and acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of individual students. It would not be offered to students who have struggled throughout their training or had two semesters on probation.

The GPA parameters outlined above would trigger a review of a student's record and consideration for remediation. The standard of performance for students in this program is to maintain a 3.00 GPA or better. Students will not be automatically offered an opportunity to remediate. The outlined criteria must be met. It is essential to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher to successfully progress to the clinical clerkship of the program.

Disclaimer: This process does not change the student's ability to appeal academic decisions made by the Histotechnology Student Progress Committee. A student may still appeal academic decisions to the dean of the School Health Professions as indicated elsewhere in the student handbook.

PREPATORY WORK FOR ASCP EXAMINATION

This preparatory examination is utilized to evaluate students during the last phase of their Histotechnology education, and to better prepare students for taking the ASCP certification examination. This is a formative PASS or FAIL assessment and is NOT included as part of your GPA grade.

It is important for students to understand that it is the policy of the EVMS Histotechnology (HTL) Program that granting the Master's in Science degree is NOT contingent upon passing the ASCP certification exam.

The first administration of the preparatory work for the ASCP examination will be during the last semester of the program prior to graduation. This test will demonstrate strengths and weaknesses in each student's basic science and clinical knowledge. The results will be used by the student to direct his/her/their studying for the ASCP certification examination. This is a formative evaluation meant to serve as a self-reflective evaluation of your current level of knowledge and understanding. Administration of the exam should be used to guide study prior to taking the ASCP Examination.

HISTOTECHNOLOGIST PROGRAM CLINICAL GUIDEBOOK

CLINICAL CLERKSHIP EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Complete guidelines for planning rotations and all clinical clerkship policies are contained in the Histotechnology Program Supervised Clinical Practice (SCP) Guidebook. The current version is made available to students on Blackboard well before the clinical clerkship commences for each class. It outlines clinical rotations, scheduling, and expectations during the clinical clerkship in full detail.

LIST OF CLINICAL SITES

Clinical Site	Address	City, State, Zip	Preceptor	Email
EVMS Dermatology	721 Fairfax Avenue	Norfolk, VA 23505	Dr. Alice Roberts	RobertAA@evms.edu
Sentara Norfolk General	600 Gresham Dr	Norfolk, VA 23507	Rob Kline	RGKLINE@sentara.com
Portsmouth Naval Hospital	620 John Paul Jones Cir	Portsmouth, VA 23708	Michelle Treadwell	michelle.l.treadwell.civ@mail.mil

CODE OF ETHICS

The [Code of Ethics of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science](#) sets forth the principles and standards by which medical laboratory professionals and students admitted to professional education programs practice their profession. As a Medical Laboratory Professional, I pledge to uphold my duty to Patients, the Profession and Society by:

- Placing patients' welfare above my own needs and desires.
- Ensuring that each patient receives care that is safe, effective, efficient, timely, equitable, and patient-centered.
- Maintaining the dignity and respect for my profession.
- Promoting the advancement of my profession.
- Ensuring collegial relationships within the clinical laboratory and with other patient care providers.
- Improving access to laboratory services.
- Promoting equitable distribution of healthcare resources.
- Complying with laws and regulations and protecting patients from others' incompetent or illegal practice.
- Changing conditions where necessary to advance the best interests of patients.

APPENDICES FORMS

1. Office of the Registrar http://info.evms.edu/registrar_html
 - a. Address Changes Form
 - b. Request for transcript of record Form
 - c. Request for Name Change Instructions and Form
 - d. Student Status Change Form
 - e. Release of Directory Information Form
 - f. Request for Release of Information/Enrollment Verification Form
 - g. Request to Inspect and Review Education Records Form
 - h. Request to Amend Education Records Form
 - i. Request for Tutor Form
 - j. Annual FERPA Notice
2. Office for Student Affairs <http://www.evms.edu/student-resources/office-of-student-affairs.html>

3. Occupational Health Department <http://www.evms.edu/occ-health/students.html>
 - a. Student Health Requirements Form

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

1. [The National Society for Histotechnology \(NSH\)](#) provides you the opportunity to become part of a community of histology professionals who are passionately dedicated to supporting each other through collaboration, knowledge sharing, career enrichment, and skills development. Networking opportunities and events help to increase your knowledge and achieve your career goals, which will improve patient outcomes.
2. [The American Society for Clinical Pathology \(ASCP\)](#) is the world's largest professional membership organization for pathologists and laboratory professionals. Their mission is to provide excellence in education, certification, and advocacy on behalf of patients, pathologists, and laboratory professionals across the globe. With more than 100,000 members, the society's influence has guided the application and evolution of the pathology and laboratory medicine specialty since 1922.
3. [The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science \(NAACLS\)](#): The EVMS Histotechnology program is under review for accreditation under this agency. Additionally, it provides resources for HTL faculty and students.