



Basic Microscopy: Focusing the Microscope

Put a slide on the microscope stage. It is necessary to focus your microscope when you are viewing specimens. Focusing the microscope is performed by using the fine and coarse adjustment knobs located on the side of the microscope.

Please note: Be careful using the coarse adjustment knob with initial focusing, since too rapid a movement could crack the slide and possibly damage the objective.

Bring the 10X or 40X objective over the slide. Using the large coarse adjustment knob, raise or lower the stage until you see an object come into view. Once the object comes into view, use the smaller fine adjustment knob to obtain a clearer view of the object.

Adjust the light source using the condenser diaphragm to obtain the correct amount of light. If using the oil immersion objective, place a drop of oil on the slide before you move the oil objective in place. Typically, the oil objective will be 100X, but some may be 40X. Read the imprint text on the objective first to verify it is intended for oil immersion.

Please note: Always be careful to not get oil on any dry objectives.

Link to video job aid: <https://reach.cdc.gov/jobaid/basic-microscopy-focusing-microscope>