

# LOWER DIGESTIVE SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

<b>ORGAN</b>	<b>PRIMARY FUNCTIONS</b>
<b>Small Intestine</b>	Completion of chemical digestion via enzymes; primary site for nutrient absorption into the bloodstream through villi.
<b>Cecum</b>	Acts as a transition pouch between the small and large intestines, receiving processed liquid (chyme).
<b>Ascending Colon</b>	Beginning of water and electrolyte reabsorption; starts the process of turning liquid waste into stool.
<b>Transverse Colon</b>	Continued absorption of water and salts; moves waste horizontally across the abdominal cavity.
<b>Descending Colon</b>	Storage of feces that will eventually be emptied into the rectum.
<b>Sigmoid Colon</b>	S-shaped curve that holds specialized muscle to increase pressure and move stool into the rectum.
<b>Rectum</b>	Temporary storage site for feces; triggers nerves that signal the brain when it is time for elimination.

**ORGAN****PRIMARY FUNCTIONS****Anus**

Final opening of the digestive tract controlled by sphincter muscles to regulate the exit of waste.