

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE TO THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors change the name of the Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science degree to the Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science degree, effective fall term 2023.

Background

The Wayne State University Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) program, which leads to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science (BSCLS), has existed since 1936. It was known as the Medical Technology (MT) program until 1994 and the degree conferred was the Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology (BSMT). In 1994, the program was renamed to the Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science "to clearly reflect the professional responsibility."

Throughout the approximately 100 years that the profession has existed, it has been known by three names: medical technology, clinical laboratory science, and medical laboratory science, and the bachelor's-degreed laboratory professional has been called a medical technologist, a clinical laboratory scientist, and a medical laboratory scientist. All three terms are in use today, which is confusing for other health professionals and for the public and leads to a lack of understanding of our scope of practice and importance in modern healthcare.

The two premier medical laboratory professional societies, the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) and the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) have published a position paper advocating the standardization of the professional designation to **Medical Laboratory Scientist**. Numerous other professional organizations are on record in support of this standardization, including AABB, American Association of Pathologists' Assistants (AAPA); Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT); American Society of Cytopathology (ASC); American Society for Microbiology (ASM); Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA); National Society for Histotechnology (NSH), and the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

Our CLS program here at Wayne State University is accredited by NAACLS and because of this ongoing accreditation, our program graduates are eligible to sit for the ASCP Board of Certification Medical Laboratory Scientist certification examination, and to become ASCP-certified medical laboratory scientists. This credential meets the standard for employment in hospital laboratories in our area and allows our graduates to easily secure employment in the profession. The MLS(ASCP)^{CM} credential replaced the older MT(ASCP) credential in 2009.

The ASCP Board of Certification and the ASCLS in the position paper are encouraging educational programs to adopt the standardized title and thus "further establish the continuity

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between educational program and professional credential”. Since our accrediting agency supports the standardization of the title and our graduates take the ASCP examination and obtain this professional credential, we recommend that Wayne State University participate in this standardization effort as well. If this recommendation is approved and implemented, any current active students who do not graduate before the start of the Fall 2023 term will be moved to the new program.

Approvals

The proposal was approved by the Department of Applied Health Sciences faculty, the curriculum committee of the Health Sciences Division of the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, the Dean of the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the Provost.