



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Jeff Jessee, Dean of the College of Health and Vice Provost of Health Programs

Cc: Angela Craft, Committee Chair & Term Assistant Professor of Medical Laboratory Science  
Melainie Duckworth, Term Assistant Professor of Medical Laboratory Science

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

**Program/s in this review:** Phlebotomist OEC & Medical Laboratory Technology AAS & Medical Laboratory Science BS

**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):** The Medical Laboratory Technology AAS and Medical Laboratory Science BS are accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

**Campuses where the program is delivered:** Anchorage

**Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role:**

The mission of the Medical Laboratory Science Department is to graduate competent and ethical clinical laboratory professionals with the knowledge and the skills for career entry. The Department offers three articulated program options – a Phlebotomist OEC, a Medical Laboratory Technology AAS, and a Medical Laboratory Science BS. Phlebotomists collect quality specimens and prepare these specimens for testing to produce quality results for the most accurate diagnosis and treatment of patients. Medical laboratory technicians perform routine clinical laboratory tests (such as hematology, clinical chemistry, immunohematology, microbiology, serology/immunology, coagulation, molecular and other emerging diagnostics) to make specimen-oriented decisions on predetermined criteria. Medical laboratory scientists also perform these clinical laboratory tests, but are able to play a role in the development and evaluation of test systems and interpretive algorithms. These professions are essential in the provision of healthcare services. All three programs are critical for the College of Health to accomplish its mission of advancing the health and wellbeing of people and communities. Employment growth is projected to be robust for phlebotomists, medical and clinical technicians, and medical and clinical technologists (+23.8%, +23.0%, and +24.0%, respectively). The average number of annual openings in these professions is expected to total 68 (17 for phlebotomists, 29 for medical and clinical technicians, and 22 for medical and clinical technologists).

**Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity:**

During this review period, an average of 27.3 students graduated from the Medical Laboratory Science program each year. Most students graduated with the Medical Laboratory Science BS, without obtaining the Medical Laboratory Technology AAS or the Phlebotomist OEC. This explains the low number of

graduates in those two program options. Except for one practicum course, courses for the Phlebotomist OEC and Medical Laboratory Technology AAS satisfy requirements for the Medical Laboratory Science BS. Some students also take the OEC courses as electives for other programs, or to strengthen their applications to other programs. About 10% of the department's student credit hour production comes from non-majors. The number of graduates from the Medical Laboratory Science BS has varied due to faculty turnover and difficulties in recruiting new faculty. On average, the Medical Laboratory Science Department serves 123.6 students each year. Overall, the program demonstrates a good return on investment. On average, 85% of its instructional costs are covered by full tuition revenues. The program also receives generous donations from industry partners.

**Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success:**

The Medical Laboratory Technology AAS and Medical Laboratory Science BS are both accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). Students' pass rates on certification exams consistently exceed national benchmarks and averages. Employment rates for program graduates are also very high (pass rates and employment rates are often 100%). The Department has strongly encouraged students to participate in undergraduate research. These efforts have been very successful. Students have presented research at national conferences and published as professionals. Students also have opportunities to participate in interprofessional activities and direct work experiences in the field. Overall, the program maintains a very strong focus on student success. Faculty provide unique and exceptional experiences for their students. Faculty are also committed to regular program improvement through academic assessment. Each year, they complete an exemplary Assessment Report.

**Program Duplication / Distinctiveness:**

The Medical Laboratory Technology AAS and the Medical Laboratory Science BS are only available at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The Phlebotomist OEC is only available at the University of Alaska Anchorage, but the University of Alaska Fairbanks offers specialized training in phlebotomy. The UAA Phlebotomist OEC is offered via distance delivery (proctors and clinical training facilities need to be identified prior to enrollment).

**Commendations and Recommendations:**

The Department of Medical Laboratory Science provides a comprehensive set of articulated educational options that prepare students to be competent and ethical clinical laboratory professionals. The occupational forecast is strong. The Department demonstrates efficiency and productivity. Faculty deliver high quality programs. They are particularly commended for the exceptional research experiences that are provided to students. Overall, the return on the state's investment is good. The Phlebotomist OEC, Medical Laboratory Technology AAS, and Medical Laboratory Science BS are strong programs that should be continued. The Department should further explore the possibilities for enhancing the programs through distance delivery.

**Decision:**

Continuation.