



## Program Assessment Report (PAR)

### Medical Laboratory Science (MLB) Baccalaureate Degree

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**ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT:** [AcademicYear]

#### I. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Relevant elements required annually for MLS Program Accreditation. The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS) requires reporting on three Outcome Measures. Graduation Rate represents the percent of students who progress into the second half of our program year and graduate. Certification Pass Rate defined as percent of students who pass the American Society of Clinical Pathology- Board of Certification exam (ASCP-BOC) within the first year of graduation Placement Rate defined as the percent of graduates who report finding employment as an MLS, working in a closely related field, or continuing their education within one year of graduation

#### II. PROCEDURES USED FOR ASSESSMENT

##### A. Direct Assessment

Graduation Rate In May of each year we calculate the number of students that successfully completed the program divided by the number that started the program year and multiply by 100. Success (graduation) in the program is determined by course grades, Program-Inclusive Comprehensive exams, and Evaluations from Clinical Rotations (practicum courses) site liaison/rotation supervisor. Certification Pass Rate access and monitor the ASCP-BOC Program Performance Reports through the summer months (or until each student's exam results accounted for). Calculate the percent who have passed divided by the total number who sat for the exam. Students who fail the exam can sit for exam several times, but it counts as passing for our records only if they pass within one year of graduation from our program. Our rates are usually >90% passing the exam on their first attempt. Placement Rate We ask the students to report obtained post-graduation employment during the last months of the program (informally, during MLB 4990 or MLB 4820). Most of the students report having employment secured during March-April before they even graduate. A Graduate Survey is also sent to the graduates in the fall after they have graduated. One of the

questions asks them if they have found employment as an MLS, or in a closely related field, or if they are continuing their education.

## **B. Scoring of Student Work**

Graduation Rate Course grades are mostly scored by instructors using answer key and interpreting accuracy of answers to application questions. Program Comprehensive Exams are scored electronically using a scan-tron/scanning services at WSU. Rotation Evaluations are a rubric with an areas for notes filled out by their rotation / practicum supervisors. Certification Pass Rate The certification exams are administed at a Pearson Testing Center. They are Computer Adaptive Tests. ASCP-BOC is responsible for all aspects the certification exam procedure nationally and internationally. Placement Rate Students share their employment with us as they acquire it throughout the spring and we document it (individual meetings, student group time). The students also report their employment status during their Graduate Survey which is sent 5-6 months after graduation/completion of the program. Use of the survey generates a report of each question on the survey, so it gives a percent of employment.

## **C. Indirect Assessment**

Students fill out course evaluations for each course. An Exit Survey is given to students on their last day of the program to give feedback to the program regarding accomplishment of Program level and course learning objectives. It also asks for feedback on the program as a whole, including areas of improvement. An Employer Survey is sent to our regional stakeholders, the medical lab directors, who hire our graduates each year. Questions include feedback on graduate level of competence upon entering the field, student level of professionalism, their feedback on our program meeting learning outcomes consistent with entry-level skills in the field.

## **III. ASSESSMENT RESULTS/INFORMATION:**

Graduation Rate Certification Pass Rate Placement Rate

100% 100% 93%

Students are achieving the program learning outcomes 14/15 students passed the certification exam on their first attempt. (93% pass rate on first attempt) One student failed the first attempt, but passed the exam one month later. According

to our accrediting agency we have 100% pass rate within one year of graduation. With 2020 abruptly changing to no face to face contact, it was more difficult to have our normal group meetings where we get this information. It was more difficult to gather contact information for the long term follow up. Results available from the Graduate Survey were 80% (but was a low number of surveys returned). Further discussions with students from follow up emails, socially distanced visits, and their classmate group texts we were able to determine this rate of 93% to be more accurate this year. Some of the labs had less hiring than usual during the spring of 2020 due to furloughs in the lab because of pandemic regulations stopping non-essential surgeries, visits to doctors and labs, etc.

#### **IV. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING**

Annual fall MLS administrative/faculty group meeting discussed the year in review. 2020- so it was unusual, but the students were able to complete it successfully. Shared BOC results, Grad rate, etc. We determined that an advanced class seems extremely difficult and that there is room in the basic level of that course to add some of the content to help ease that transition for students. Information shared with both those instructors for planning purposes. Annual Advisory Meeting Consists of our affiliated clinical lab directors. ASCP-BOC pass rate and relevant certification reports are shared with them, their feedback of the program is shared, and they review/renew their affiliation with the MSL program and agree to take a certain number of our students for clinical rotations for the upcoming academic year. Share highlights of course evals with instructors. They have access to review comments via the link in Pilot. In March of 2020, we finished the process of NAACLS Continuing Accreditation with a site visit in March. This process included a lengthy Self-study report submitted in 2019 which was reviewed by NAACLS reviewers. The process then lead to a scheduled site visit by the accreditor. All aspects of learning outcomes, assessments and competencies are examined. The program received zero deficiencies and was awarded 10 years of continuing accreditation.

#### **V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Additional documentation, when provided, is stored in the internal Academic Program Assessment of Student Learning SharePoint site.