

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Council

FR: Michelle Butina, Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) Program Director

RE: Response to Senate Council Discussion from February 27, 2012

DATE: March 6, 2012

During the February 27, 2012 Senate Council meeting, the Medical Laboratory Science requests (Memo dated June 27, 2012) were discussed. Council members had concerns/questions regarding the changes in the program name, Senate Rule 4.2.2.2, and the request to lower the minimum cumulative GPA admission requirement. The MLS faculty met and discussed the concerns of the Senate Council. In addition, I discussed these concerns with Dean Stewart. The sections below address each concern/question.

1) Program Name Concern: Concerns were raised regarding the Medical Technology program name.

Program Name Clarification: Program records indicate that the Medical Technology Program (College of Health Sciences, CHS) changed its name to Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CHS) in 1988. On October 10, 2011 the UK Senate approved a program name change from Clinical Laboratory Sciences to Medical Laboratory Science (CHS).

2) Senate Rule 4.2.2.2: Council members discussed this Rule regarding the Medical Technology Program and asked for edits to address program name change and admission changes.

Response to Senate Rule 4.2.2.2: The original memo (dated June 27, 2012) asked for deletion of SR 5.3.2.2.1. The MLS faculty was not aware of SR 4.2.2.2. With the awareness of this Senate Rule, the MLS faculty requests deletion of SR 4.2.2.2, Section E, regarding the Medical Technology: Admissions Policy. Senate Rules regarding Medical Technology should have been deleted or edited in 1988 when the Program changed its name to Clinical Laboratory Sciences. (See Program Name Clarification above.) Due to the fact that the information in SR 4.2.2.2 is woefully out of date and no longer utilized, the MLS faculty request deletion of these rules.

3) Lower the minimum grade point average (GPA) admission requirement for the Medical Laboratory Science Program from 2.75 to 2.5: Council members asked the Program to reconsider this request and to consider other options, such as a pre-requisite GPA or minimum course grade in selected courses.

Response to change in minimum GPA: To be more consistent with benchmark institutions, the MLS faculty is requesting the following as their new admission requirement: *Students must achieve an overall (cumulative) GPA of 2.5 and successfully pass all pre-requisite courses.*

MLS pre-requisite courses consist of: 1 semester of general biology with laboratory, 2 semesters of general chemistry with laboratory, 1 semester of organic chemistry with laboratory, 1 semester of general microbiology with laboratory, 1 semester of statistical methods, and 1 semester of human physiology (or combined course in physiology and anatomy).

Rationale:

- Current MLS Program policy indicates that students applying to the MLS Program are required to complete their pre-requisite courses by the start date of the Program (fall semester) and not by the application deadline (spring semester). Thus, in the MLS Program, 50-70% of students are accepted into the program conditionally upon completion and successfully passing of their pre-requisite courses.
- Five MLS Programs from benchmark institutions were again reviewed regarding their admission standards. Four of the five required a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher and either a pre-requisite GPA or a “C” or better in designated science/math courses. MLS faculty members believe that an overall GPA of 2.5 and successful passing of pre-requisite courses, while less stringent than some benchmark standards, is still rigorous enough to allow students to be successful in the program while also allowing greater flexibility in admissions decisions.
- Within the College of Health Science there have been many recent discussions promoting a transition to more holistic admissions. Dr. Butina contacted the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Randa Remer, in regards to holistic admissions and the MLS admission requirement. Dr. Remer indicated that a cumulative GPA with passing of pre-requisites courses would be more holistic and, perhaps, more inclusive than a pre-requisite GPA or minimum course grades, in regards to the MLS Program.

Please contact Michelle Butina (mbu228@uky.edu or 218-0852) if you have questions or concerns.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sharon R. Stewart, CHS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

THROUGH: Karen Skaff, Clinical Science Department Chair

FR: Michelle Butina, Medical Laboratory Science Program Director

RE: Request for:

- 1) Deletion of Medical Laboratory Science standards from Senate Rules, and
- 2) Change in Medical Laboratory Science admission requirement

DATE: June 27, 2011- modified March 6, 2012 and April 30, 2012

The faculty of the Medical Laboratory Science (formerly Clinical Laboratory Sciences) Program requests approval for the following changes. These changes follow the program revisions that were approved by the Senate on October 10, 2011. (These program revisions included a change in the program name from Clinical Laboratory Science to Medical Laboratory Science.)

1) Delete current Senate Rules (5.3.2.2.1) listed for the “Clinical Laboratory Sciences Professional Program” and

Re: 5.3.2.2.1: As part of the program revisions that were provisionally approved (5/16/11), the 800 level courses that were part of the ‘old’ program were changed to 400 level courses. There is no longer a need for separate rules for this program since the academic policies/standards are now consistent with those of the University. Thus, the Medical Laboratory Science faculty request deletion of these rules. (Please see the attached Senate Rules.)

2) Replace Senate Rules (4.2.2.2, Section E) regarding the “Medical Technology Admissions Policy.”

Re: 4.2.2.2: Senate Rules regarding Medical Technology should have been deleted or edited in 1988 when the Program changed its name to Clinical Laboratory Sciences. Due to the fact that the information in SR 4.2.2.2 is woefully out of date and no longer utilized, the MLS faculty request replacement of these rules. (Please see the attached Senate Rules which reflect the new policy.)

3) Update of Senate Rules (4.2.2.2, Sections A-D) regarding the College of Health Sciences Professional Program Policies.

Re: 4.2.2.2 Sections A-D were edited so that the terminology within would be consistent with usage today. No policy changes were made, only minor terminology changes as suggested by Bob Grossman on 4/30/12. The policies will be reviewed in the future by the College of Health Sciences in order to update any outdated policies. (Please see the attached Senate Rules which reflect the editing proposed.)

4) Change minimum grade point average (GPA) admission requirement for the Medical Laboratory Science Program to 2.5 overall GPA.

In 2004, the former Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program made major program revisions and raised the minimum GPA for admission into the Program to 2.75 (on a 4.0 scale). Current Medical Laboratory Science faculty members have unanimously agreed that the minimum GPA for program admission should be lowered to 2.5 for two reasons. First, faculty members believe that some high quality students who could be successful in this program are not applying because they do not meet the minimum GPA. Second, faculty members reviewed equivalent Medical Laboratory Science programs at several flagship universities to review their admission requirements and program pre-requisite courses. Those programs with similar pre-requisite courses commonly required a minimum GPA of 2.5. Thus, faculty members believe that a decrease from 2.75 to 2.5 is justified.

Please contact Michelle Butina (mbu228@uky.edu or 218-0852) if you have questions or concerns.

5.3.2.2.1 — Clinical Laboratory Science Professional Program

~~The following standards apply to undergraduate students in the Clinical Laboratory Science Professional Program (CLS):~~

A. — Student Progress

~~Students admitted to the CLS Program may advance into the senior year and/or clinical rotation of the CLS program of study on the condition that each has:~~

- ~~1. — at least a GPA of 2.00 on all course work; and~~
- ~~2. — earned a minimum grade of C (2.0) in every course with the CLS prefix.~~

B. — Undergraduate Professional Program Probation

~~Regardless of academic standing in the University, a student shall be placed on probation where the student:~~

- ~~1. — earns a semester GPA less than 2.0 in all courses required by the CLS Program; or~~
- ~~2. — earns a grade less than C (2.0) for any course having a CLS prefix.~~

C. — Removal from Clinical Laboratory Science Program Probation

~~A student shall be removed from probation when:~~

- ~~1. — in the semester following probation, the student earns a semester GPA of at least 2.0 in courses required by the CLS Program; and~~
- ~~2. — the student earns at least a grade of C (2.0) in any course with a CLS prefix in which previously the student earned a grade below C.~~

D. — Clinical Laboratory Science Program Suspension

~~A student shall be suspended when the student:~~

- ~~1. earns less than a semester GPA of 2.0 in courses required by the CLS Program at the end of the first probationary period or in any subsequent semester; or~~
- ~~2. earns less than a C in a course with a CLS prefix for the second time; or~~
- ~~3. earns less than a C in any two courses required in the CLS Program.~~

~~**E. Removal from Clinical Laboratory Science Program Suspension**~~

~~A student may be reinstated into the CLS program when the student meets the requirements for readmission as determined by the CLS Admissions and Progression Committee. These requirements will be communicated to the student at the time of suspension.~~

4.2.2.2 College of Health Sciences

A. Freshman Admission

Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the College of Health Sciences. Freshman applicants will be admitted to the College if their ACT Composite Score is at or above the 50% on National Norms and if they have a minimum high school grade point average of 2.0. However, students' continuation into the junior year will depend on the criteria in B below.

B. University of Kentucky Student Admission

Completion of the required number of hours of academic credit does not guarantee admission to an undergraduate degree program in the College of Health Sciences. Admission to any program is dependent upon the availability of resources for implementation of quality instruction, and the number of students admitted will be limited by these considerations.

Students will be admitted to a degree program on the basis of their University cumulative grade point average and other criteria indicating potential for becoming successful health science professionals (e.g., Health Science grade point average, freshman entrance scores, grades in key courses, references, and personality inventories).

C. Transfer Student Admission

Admission to the University as a transfer student does not guarantee admission to an undergraduate degree program in the College of Health Sciences. In addition to meeting the University's requirements for admissions from a community college or from another institution, and, in addition to the conditions stated in Senate regulations for changing from one University college to another, applicants seeking to transfer to an undergraduate degree program in the College of Health Sciences will be considered on the basis of their cumulative collegiate grade point average and the criteria described in B above.

D. The deadline for application for admission for the fall semester into the Medical Laboratory Sciences, Communications Disorders, Health Administration and Physician Assistant Studies programs is February 1st. The deadline for application for admission in the spring semester for the Medical Laboratory Science program is October 1st. [SC: 4/24/95]

E. Medical Laboratory Science Admissions Policy

Students must achieve an overall (cumulative) GPA of 2.5 and pass all prerequisite courses.

F. Health Science Educator Admissions Policy

Entry is permitted to those who complete an accredited program in a health science discipline and the Preprofessional Requirements.

An overall grade-point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 quality point scale in all course work attempted, as computed by the University Admissions Office.

References from three health professionals. [US: 4/11/83]

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Raphael Finkel [raphael@cs.uky.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 3:26 PM
To: Brothers, Sheila C
Cc: Davis, Alison F; Feddock, Christopher A; Fryar, Alan E; Lowry, Regina; Fuqua, Zachary D; Raphael Finkel; Scott Yost; Provost, University of Kentucky; Witt, Don
Subject: Item 6: Admissions Requirements for BHS in Medical Laboratory Science

Sheila,

The SAASC has voted to approve the proposed changes to the Medical Laboratory Science program.

Notes:

The request is to

1. Delete Medical Laboratory Science standards from SR
2. Change the Medical Laboratory Science admission requirement

Background

1. The US provisionally approved program revisions in 5/2011, including a name change from Clinical Laboratory Science Professional Program to Medical Laboratory Science. Courses at the 800 level in the old program were changed to 400 level. So we can remove rules pertaining to the old Clinical Laboratory Science Professional Program (SR 5.3.2.2.1). The new program needs no special treatment.
2. The old program raised GPA for admission to 2.75 in 2004. Current faculty unanimously want that changed to 2.50, to attract more high-quality students and to bring the prerequisite in line with similar programs at other flagship universities.

Discussion:

Part 1 is clearly the right thing to do.

Part 2 is fine; the faculty of the department are the best to judge whether this change will attract a larger number of qualified students without hurting the program. There is no evidence that this change will hurt other programs.

Raphael