

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES PROGRAM ACCREDITATION REPORT
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report from the B. S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program administered by the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics at the University of Iowa.

Executive Summary: The Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the standards defined by the accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators. The Program was accredited for the maximum period of seven years allowed by the accrediting body. This report addresses the Board's Strategic Plan objective to "offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students" (1.1.).

Background:

- ◇ **Description.** Clinical Laboratory Scientists (formally known as Medical Technologists) are responsible for the development, performance, and evaluation of laboratory testing that is needed in patient medical care and clinical research. They analyze samples of blood, tissue, and body fluids using cutting-edge technology and a variety of analytical techniques.²
- ◇ **Purpose of Accreditation.** An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met national standards for its development and evaluation. In order to work as a clinical laboratory scientist, an individual must have graduated from an accredited program.
- ◇ **Accrediting Agency.** The accrediting body is the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).
- ◇ **Review Process.** The self-study prepared by the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program contained the responses to the appropriate standards required by the accrediting body – sponsorship; resources; curriculum; students; operational policies; program evaluation; and maintaining accreditation.
- ◇ **On-Site Team Report.** In April 2006, the visiting team determined that the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program met the criteria required by the accrediting body.
- ◇ **Sample Strengths Identified by the Visiting Team.**
 - ☑ "The program director and faculty are well prepared academically and have excellent experience. They are highly dedicated to teaching and do an exceptional job attested to by current students and graduates from the program."

² According to CNN's Money Magazine, Medical Technologist/Clinical Lab Scientist was ranked in the "Top 50 Careers" in 2006.

- “All course content, objectives, and evaluations are well prepared and comprehensive.”
- “The clinical facilities offer an excellent learning experience. The clinical staff are dedicated and committed to teaching. Student feedback indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the clinical rotation learning experience.”

◇ Sample Concerns Identified by the Visiting Team.

- “The advisory committee was disbanded when the decision to close the program was made. Currently, the advisory committee is made up of pathology and university administration. There are no community members on the Committee.” *The committee that served as the steering committee for the future program changes is now the advisory committee. The committee consists of a hospital administrator, hospital financial officer, Dean of the Carver College of Medicine, pathologist who is also an educator, and a laboratory manager from another hospital. In the future other members, such as graduates from the program or lay persons, may be added as needed.*
- “There are no minutes for advisory committee meetings.” *Informal meetings are being held with consultants from pathology and the University.*

◇ Accreditation Status. In October 2006, the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences awarded accreditation to the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program for the maximum period of seven years until April 2012.

◇ Program Changes. In March 2006, the Board of Regents approved the University of Iowa’s proposal to enter into a partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) whereby students will receive the introductory laboratory and didactic elements of the program through UNMC in Omaha. Students will continue to take their first three years of coursework, including chemistry, biology, and mathematics courses, and to receive the majority of their clinical experience in Iowa City. Students will continue to earn the B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences from SUI. However, the program accreditation will be maintained by UNMC; this was the last time that SUI was responsible for the accreditation.

Details about the accreditation report are available in the Board Office.