

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR A NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
FROM BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE TO
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE**

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the Bachelor of Science Program in Clinical Laboratory Science to Bachelor of Science Program in Medical Laboratory Science in the Department of Pathology in the Carver College of Medicine.

Executive Summary: The proposed name change will align the name of the program with the name of the professional credential. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and effective.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of the program.** The Bachelor of Science Program in Clinical Laboratory Science requires a minimum of 131 semester hours, including 86 semester hours of preparatory study and the 45 semester hour professional (clinical) program, which consists of 12 months of didactic and practice instruction and clinical rotations. Clinical laboratory scientists and medical technologists, now known as medical laboratory scientists, perform the laboratory tests that provide physicians with information vital for accurate diagnosis and proper treatment of disease. They are in demand in hospital, private, and government laboratories; clinics; physicians’ offices; and industrial, pharmaceutical, biological, and environmental research laboratories. Clinical laboratory scientists and medical technologists are highly skilled health team members who use a battery of sophisticated procedures and instruments in their work and who possess specialized knowledge and skills acquired through completion of a formal program of academic and clinical study.

Students who have completed all preparatory study (years one through three) begin the fourth-year professional program in May with an 11-week summer session of lecture and student laboratory courses. In mid-August, they begin clinical rotations in the laboratories of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, State Hygienic Laboratory, and Iowa City Veterans Affairs Medical Center. They complete additional University of Nebraska Medical Center course work online during fall and spring. Students complete the program during the first week in May.

- ◇ **Reason for proposed name change.** On October 23, 2009, the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) board of registry and the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA) formed a single certification agency for medical laboratory professionals. Unity in the clinical laboratory profession will bring more recognition and respect from the public and other healthcare professions. Medical Technologists (MT) and Clinical Laboratory Scientists (CLS) are now called Medical Laboratory Scientists (MLS) which is now the professional credential. There is no longer a credential called Clinical Laboratory Scientist.

- ◇ Comparable name at other institutions. A number of institutions and programs have a similar program name, including Allen College, St. Luke's Hospital, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Vermont, and Idaho State University.
- ◇ Consistency with accreditation requirements. The proposed name is in alignment with the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), the program's accrediting agency. The proposed program name will be consistent with national standards.
- ◇ Effect on program configuration. The department expects no program configuration or number of hours changes as a result of the proposed name change.
- ◇ Effect on students. All current students have been contacted regarding the proposed program name change. The proposed program name is consistent with the professional credential required for practice.
- ◇ Effect on resources. The department expects no new costs as a result of implementing the proposed name change.
- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed name change will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and will be included in the University's General Catalog. The anticipated implementation date is September 2013.