



VERA Z. DWYER SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

Policy #:	MLS-A-06
Effective date:	08/01/2023
Target group:	All students, faculty, and clinical partners
Section:	Medical Laboratory Science program
Last revision date:	08/01/2024

Assessment of the Medical Laboratory Science Program

Purpose

Regular program assessment is a necessary component of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and a mechanism to ensure student learning experiences and outcomes meet expectations. This policy provides a systematic approach for the continuous development, review, and improvement of an assessment plan for Medical Laboratory Science.

Policy

The review and update of the Medical Laboratory Science assessment plan is the responsibility of the Medical Laboratory Science Program Director, with input and assistance from the Medical Laboratory Science faculty. Assessment of the Medical Laboratory Science program will occur continuously and following the general timeline below:

- August (beginning of academic year) – Program Director and faculty will meet to identify areas to focus on for assessment for the academic year and describe measurements used. Attrition rates from the previous semester will be calculated.
- Fall semester – Data will be collected for program assessment measurements applicable during this time.
- October – Program Director will create assessment document and submit to the Assessment Committee for the previous academic year.
- November - Program Director will send Medical Laboratory Science Alumni survey, followed by the Medical Laboratory Science Employer survey.
- December – Program Director will compile data collected during fall semester and formalize it into a document to share.
- January - Program Director and faculty will meet to review data collected from fall semester and review/update data for collection in spring semester. Attrition rates from the previous semester will be calculated.
- Spring semester – Data will be collected for program assessment measurements applicable during this time.
- May – Program Director will compile data collected during spring semester and formalize it into a document to share, including ASCP BOC exam pass rates, graduation rates, and placement rates. The MLS website will be updated to reflect the new data.
- Late May (end of academic year) – Program Director and faculty will meet to review data collected from spring semester.

- Summer – Program Director and available faculty will evaluate last academic year program data to identify areas of the curriculum and/or student experience that need modified and/or improved.

Measurements of Assessment

Measurements of assessment will include those required for submission in the NAACLS Annual Report: graduation rates, attrition rates, placement rates, and ASCP Board of Certification Exam for MLS pass rates. Additionally, the Medical Laboratory Science faculty may identify other measurements of assessment based on review of student learning experiences and outcomes.

NAACLS Measurements of Assessment

ASCP BOC Exam for Medical Laboratory Science Pass Rates

Measurement	Benchmark	Frequency	Follow-up
Program graduate ASCP BOC Exam for Medical Laboratory Science outcomes.	At least 75% of graduates pass the ASCP BOC Exam for Medical Laboratory Science within one year of graduation.	Provider Performance Report reviewed monthly; data calculated for the previous 12 months every May, based on graduation date.	Program graduate score breakdown evaluated by content areas to identify curriculum areas needing further assessment.

Program Graduation Rates

Measurement	Benchmark	Frequency	Follow-up
Calculation of MLS program graduation rates by cohort. Data reported by Office of the Registrar.	At least 70% of students who begin the final half of the program successfully graduate.	Data calculated annually in May, after final grade submission.	Any incidents of unsuccessful completion of the program will be evaluated for program opportunities for improvement.

*Final half of program defined as entering the last year (two semesters) of the program.

Program Attrition Rates

Measurement	Benchmark	Frequency	Follow-up
Calculation of MLS student attrition by cohort. Data based on returning enrollment lists.	Less than 20% of students will not advance to the final half of the program.	Data calculated each semester.	Any incidents of students not returning to the program will be contacted to find out why. Further assessment may be required.

*Final half of program defined as entering the last year (two semesters) of the program.

Graduate Placement Rates

Measurement	Benchmark	Frequency	Follow-up
Calculation of MLS program graduates who find employment in a laboratory related profession or continue their education.	At least 70% of graduates find employment in a laboratory related profession or continue their education within one year of graduation.	Data collected at time of graduation and again one year post graduation from students and employers.	Graduates who do not find employment will be contacted for further information. Employers will be contacted to find out why a student was not hired.

Program Selected Measurements of Assessment

Comprehensive Mock Board Exam

Measurement	Benchmark	Frequency	Follow-up
LabCE mock computer adaptive comprehensive board exam score. Scores are determined using an equation provided by another MLS program.	At least 80% of students will earn a score above 400 by the end of the final spring semester.	Students will take mock computer adaptive comprehensive board exams while enrolled in clinical rotation courses (E401 – E404). Exams will be taken every four weeks.	Student scores will be reviewed after completion of the courses to identify any content areas that need improvement in the curriculum. Student board pass rates will be correlated to their practice exam scores.

Application of Laboratory Safety

Measurement	Benchmark	Frequency	Follow-up
Number of student laboratory and clinical rotation accidents/near misses reported.	No student laboratory or clinical rotation accidents/near misses reported.	Ongoing data collection with assessment occurring at the time of report.	For each reported accident or near miss, an incident report form will be completed to determine root cause for the incident. Appropriate education and/or practice changes will occur based on the incident.

Assessment of Student Experiences

Student feedback from their experiences while enrolled in the Medical Laboratory Science program and at clinical sites is critical to the success of the program and future students. Feedback is collected during enrollment in the Medical Laboratory Science program and after graduation.

Clinical Rotation Experience

The current Indiana University course evaluation has a focus on student experience with the course and the instructor of record, not the clinical site. Qualtrics surveys, with a focus on the clinical site and instructors, are provided for each of the four main rotation categories: chemistry, hematology, blood banking, and microbiology. Students are assigned to complete the rotation-specific survey during the final week of their rotation.

Medical Laboratory Science Graduating Student Exit Survey

During the last week of the program, students are sent a survey to collect initial feedback of their experience in the Medical Laboratory Science program, contact information for future surveys, and plans for certification and employment.

Medical Laboratory Science Alumni Survey

Approximately six months (and at least three months) after graduation from the Medical Laboratory Science program, alumni will be sent a survey for feedback on their experiences in the program and transferability of knowledge and skills to the workforce. Additionally, employer information, certification updates, and continuing education data will be collected.

Medical Laboratory Science Employer Survey

Upon receipt of the Medical Laboratory Science Alumni survey results, employers reported by respondents will be contacted for feedback regarding the employability of IU South Bend graduates and recommendations for program improvements.

Policy Updates

This policy shall be updated upon review of the need for program assessment mechanisms and decision for measurements of assessment for the academic year.

Policy History

Date	Action
08/01/2023	Combination of DCHS level policies that were moved to program level
06/12/2024	Update of policy for accuracy; update policy number and document header due to academic reorganization
07/10/2024	Added "Assessment of Student Experiences" section
08/01/2024	Updated division name, policy number, and titles due to campus reorganization