

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE - REVISION OF PROGRAM PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

**Rationale:**

A change in the structure of the 4<sup>th</sup> year practicum courses was approved in 2011, moving from two 9-credit practicum courses to twelve 1.5-credit courses that better reflect the specific department rotations and professional practice standards in a clinical laboratory.

However, with this new structure, the previous program progression rules that would have removed a student from the program because of a first failure in one of the MLSC designated 4000-level practicum courses is no longer appropriate. The 4<sup>th</sup> year practicum is the first time MLS students are exposed to the clinical environment, which is radically different from the academic environment. Therefore, students entering practicum should be given latitude to be successful.

These revised progression requirements will allow for practicum students, who enter practicum with 2 previous failures (as defined in a) through d) below), to fail two MLSC designated 4000-level practicum courses\* before removal from the program occurs. Failure of two MLSC designated 4000-level practicum courses\* (either two different courses or a repeated course) indicates an inability to successfully adapt to the clinical environment as demonstrated by consistently unsafe and/or unprofessional practice, putting patients at risk.

For a student that enters practicum with only one previous failure or a clear academic record, failure of three MLSC designated 4000-level practicum courses\* will result in removal from the program.

**\*Note:** All MLSC designated 4000-level practicum courses are now considered to be made up of two 1.5 credit courses in each of the core discipline areas.

**Summary of the proposed change:**

<b>Present calendar entry 13.4.7</b>	<b>Proposed calendar entry 13.4.7</b>
<p>A student must achieve a minimum of grade C, or for those courses graded as pass/fail, a pass in all professional medical laboratory science courses (designated MLSC) in order to pass the course. Students who earn a grade lower than a C, or a fail, in any of the courses designated MLSC will be given a standing of program probation, regardless of their overall GPA.</p> <p>A second consecutive grade of less than C, or fail, in a repeated professional medical laboratory science course (designated MLSC) will result in a withdrawal standing and removal from the medical laboratory science program.</p>	<p>A student must achieve a minimum of grade C, or for those courses graded as pass/fail, a pass in all professional medical laboratory science courses (designated MLSC) in order to pass the course. Students who earn a grade lower than a C, or a fail, in any of the courses designated MLSC will be given a standing of program probation, regardless of their overall GPA.</p> <p>A second grade of less than C, or fail, in any repeated MLSC designated course with both a theory and laboratory component, 3000 level or lower, will result in a withdrawal standing and removal from the medical laboratory science program.</p>

<p>A third failing grade in any of the program required courses, which would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A grade of less than C or fail in a MLSC designated course; and or</li> <li>• A grade of F in any HLSC required course outlined in the program map</li> </ul> <p>will result in a withdrawal from the program.</p> <p>Students who are withdrawn from the program, but have maintained the academic standing to remain at the university may apply for a program transfer.</p>	<p>A third failing grade in any of the program required courses, which would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A grade less than C, or fail, in a MLSC designated course that is not a 4000 level practicum course* or</li> <li>2. A grade of F in any HLSC required course outlined in the program map, or</li> <li>3. The failure of two MLSC designated 4000-level practicum courses*, or</li> <li>4. The second failure of any repeated MLSC designated 4000-level practicum course*</li> </ol> <p>will result in withdrawal standing and removal from the medical laboratory science program.</p> <p>Three failures of MLSC designated 4000-level practicum courses, including repeated failures, will result in withdrawal standing and removal from the medical laboratory science program.</p> <p>*Note: All MLSC designated 4000-level practicum courses are made up of two 1.5 credit courses in each of the core discipline areas.</p> <p>Students who are withdrawn from the program, but have maintained the academic standing to remain at the university may apply for a program transfer.</p>
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Approved at MLS Program Committee: October 9, 2012

Approved at Faculty of Health Sciences Curriculum Committee: October 25, 2012

Approved at Faculty of Health Sciences Executive: November 1, 2012

Approved at Faculty of Health Sciences Council:

## **Clarification for CPRC of MLS Progression Requirements – December 2012**

A passing grade in MLSC designated courses has always been defined as a minimum grade of C or, for those courses graded as pass/fail, a pass. Prior to the approval of the change in structure of the 4<sup>th</sup> year practicum courses in 2011, withdrawal from the program would occur in one of two ways:

- a student received two consecutive grades of less than C, or fail, in a repeated MLSC designated course, or
- a student received a failing grade in any combination of three MLSC designated or HLSC required courses as defined by the MLS curriculum map.

The points made above, identifying how withdrawal from the program may occur, remain mostly in place in the current proposal, but with an accommodation to provide some latitude for students to be successful; the accommodation takes into account that the clinical environment is new and vastly different for the students in fourth year. The effect of the accommodation in the revised rules is that a student will not be withdrawn from the program because of a single failure in a practicum rotation.

## **Clarification of the Structure of the MLCS Year 4 Practicum Courses**

In order to fit within the UOIT semester course structure the fourth year practicum rotations, which are concentrated in 6 to 12 week periods that may occur at different times of the year for different students, each practicum rotation is now defined as a pair of two 1.5 credit pass/fail courses in the Fall and Winter semesters; this was approved last year by CPRC. The pair of courses is not divisible; the same grade of pass or fail is given to both courses of the pair at the completion of each practicum rotation. The student will be informed of the grade shortly after the completion of each practicum rotation, whenever that occurs during the year, and will be allowed to repeat a failed rotation if that failure does not result in withdrawal from the program (e.g. a first failed rotation).