Articulated Joint Curriculum Program Agreement
for
Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) and Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS)

Between
Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)
and
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (JSRCC)

Purpose

This memorandum of understanding has been developed to facilitate the transfer of students from JSRCC to VCU who have completed the course of study for the Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree and have been certified in the field. This agreement establishes a partnership between JSRCC and VCU for the benefit of students. This agreement updates and supersedes the Articulation Agreement between JSRCC and VCU signed on November 24, 1997.

Advertising and Marketing

JSRCC will advertise this program to its present student population, specifically targeting students graduating from the MLT program. VCU will advertise this program to prospective students as part of its recruitment efforts for the BS in CLS degree completion program.

Program Description

The Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences at VCU Medical Center offers a course of study for certified MLTs/CLTs leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences. MLTs/CLTs, who hold an associate degree in medical technology from an accredited community college and are certified as medical laboratory technicians, may be granted credit in the undergraduate Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) program for upper-level course requirements through challenge examinations or exemptions based on documented competencies in required laboratory skills. In addition, students who meet the exemption eligibility requirements for the junior level laboratory portions of the curriculum may take the didactic courses online. Both full-time and part-time students are accepted into the program. The degree completion program including prerequisite courses requires a total of 125 semester credits, which are earned through course enrollment at VCU, transfer credit from other institutions of higher education, and credits based on documented competencies.

Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the degree completion program, applicants must submit a completed application package and:

1. Have an AS or AAS degree in medical laboratory technology.
2. Have a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale on all college/university courses completed prior to admission.
3. Submit documentation of MLT/CLT national certification prior to enrollment in the undergraduate Clinical Laboratory Sciences program.
4. Receive a satisfactory recommendation from MLT program director.
5. Receive a satisfactory rating on interview with a CLS faculty member

**Completion of Prerequisite Coursework**

Have satisfactorily completed a minimum of 44 non-MLT semester hours of transferable credit for admission as a full-time student, 38 non-MLT semester hours for admission as a part-time student. The following general education and science prerequisite courses must be completed prior to admission:

- 6 semester credits *English composition*
- 8 semester credits *Biology (Survey courses do not qualify)*
- 8 semester credits *Chemistry (Survey courses do not qualify)*
- 3 semester credits *Mathematics (College Algebra or higher level)*

A total of 60 credits in prerequisite coursework must be completed for the B.S. degree. Once admitted into the baccalaureate program under special status, an MLT is required to complete the remainder of the prerequisite coursework, which may be transferred from another college or university during your studies at VCU. These requirements include:

- An additional 4 semester credits of biology (total of 12);
- An additional 4 semester credits of chemistry (total of 12);
- 3 semester credits of humanities (select from courses in history, philosophy, political science, religion, foreign languages, literature, or art history)/arts;
- 3 semester hours of social sciences (select from courses in anthropology, economics, geography, psychology, sociology or social sciences; may include selected courses in history and political science);

**Provisions of Agreement**

Courses listed in this program will be reviewed on an annual basis, or as needed, by the faculty of both institutions to ensure continuity of instruction, curriculum, and evaluation. The attached *Transfer Program Table* lists the respective transfer credits that will be awarded by VCU for courses offered by JSRCC.

**Curriculum Provisions: Junior Year**

**Exemptions:** The student is eligible to receive up to 11.0 semester hours through exemptions based on training received in an accredited MLT/CLT program.

MLT (or eligible) students are exempt from the following course in the Clinical Laboratory Sciences curriculum:
CLLS 337 Clinical Education 1.0 credit hour

Exemptions from the laboratory portions of the CLLS 300 level courses are based on grades earned in the MLT/CLT program. A student who received a grade of B or above in each course related to a specific discipline in the MLT/CLT program will be exempt from the laboratory portion of the corresponding CLLS course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Lab</th>
<th>Cr. Hrs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 301</td>
<td>Hematology</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 304</td>
<td>Urine and Body Fluid Analysis</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 306</td>
<td>Immunohematology</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CLLS 308</td>
<td>Path. Microbiology</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CLLS 310</td>
<td>Clinical Immunology</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 311/312</td>
<td>Clin. Chemistry and Instrumentation</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Proficiency credit(s), but no grade, will be recorded on the student's transcript for the exempted course(s).

Exemptions apply only to courses taken within the last 5 years. Courses completed before that time will be evaluated, and the faculty member responsible for the course will have the option of requiring a proficiency test. For guidelines, see the following section on challenge examinations.

Challenge Examinations: Challenge examinations may be taken for the lecture and/or lab portions of all the junior level courses from which the student is not exempted.

Schedule: Challenge examinations are given 1 week prior to the beginning of the semester in which the course is offered.

Fees: A charge will be made for each examination given.

- Lecture - $30.00
- Laboratory - $50.00

Grading: A passing grade of 70% must be achieved to successfully complete a challenge examination.

Proficiency credit(s) but no grade will be recorded on the student's transcript for successfully challenged courses.

Curriculum Provisions: Senior Year

Senior Clinical Rotations:

Certified MLTs who completed clinical training through an accredited MLT/CLT program within the last 5 years and/or the equivalent of at least 2 years of full-time work experience in a clinical laboratory as an MLT/CLT within the last 5 years would be permitted to obtain advanced standing (15 credits) for the following courses by passing the Clinical Qualifying Examination:
CLLS 483 Biochemistry Practicum (3 credits),
CLLS 485 Hematology Practicum (3 credits),
CLLS 493 Clinical Microbiology Practicum (3 credits),
CLLS 494 Miscellaneous Clinical Practicum (3 credits),
CLLS 496 Blood Bank Practicum (3 credits).

Pending the availability of space, students who have met the requirements in IIIA.1 may have the option of completing one or more rotations in lieu of the proficiency credits.

Cases in which students do not meet the requirements in IIIA.1 will be reviewed by the faculty on an individual basis to identify areas in which a clinical rotation must be completed.

**Senior Academic Classes:** No senior academic courses may be challenged.

**Online Curriculum**

MLTs/CLTs may complete all didactic coursework using distance-based learning technologies. The online courses eliminate the need for the students to relocate and allow them to continue to work as they complete the program. This option is restricted to MLTs/CLTs who are awarded proficiency credits for the laboratory sections of all the junior (300) level CLS courses through exemptions or challenge examinations. Students who choose this route must own a contemporary personal computer equipped with at least a 56K baud modem and have Internet access. Cable or DSL modem is preferred.

**Contact Information**

Primary contact for JSRCC shall be the Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health, (804) 523-5375. Primary contacts for VCU shall be the Chair, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (804) 828-9469 and the Associate Dean, School of Allied Health Professions (804) 828-7247.

APPROVE:

[Signature]
Gary Rhodes, President
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

[Signature]
Eugene P. Trani, President
Virginia Commonwealth University

*Revised April, 2008*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 112</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 111</td>
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<td>CHM 241</td>
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<td>CHM 112</td>
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<td>BIO 205</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 231-232</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 141-142</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 101 OR BIO 106</td>
<td>4</td>
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**Humanities/Philosophy**

- History
- Foreign Languages
- Religion
- Literature
- Political Science
- History
- Philosophy

**Math**

- MATH 163 OR 166
- MATH 200

**English**

- UNIV 111 (0 credits) and UNIV 112 (3 credits)

**Chemistry**

- CHM 301
- CHM 102/CHM 102
- CHM 101/CHM 101

**Biology**

- BIOL 209/BIOL 201 OR BIOL 141/BIOL 151

**Clinical Laboratory Sciences - Transfer Grid**

- VCU Transfer Guide for Equivalencies
- VCU Transfer Guide for Equivalencies
- VCU Transfer Guide for Equivalencies

**Social Sciences**

- Psychology, Sociology
- Economics, Geography
- Anthropology

**Revised 6/18/08**