

Administrative Response to Program Review
Medical Laboratory Technology
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Draft 07 September 2009

The Medical Laboratory Technology Program Review was presented in the Spring of 2009 and began with some history, including its start as a certificate program over 40 years ago and its move to a degree program nearly that long ago. Background on accreditation by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) was included.

Information on the creation, development, and expansion of the program to include students at distance from PCC was shared. The program is complimented for working with community colleges, hospitals, and laboratories around the state to create opportunities for those who cannot come to Portland for two years. The number of partners and diversity of location is impressive. Other programs, within and without the allied health fields, will follow your lead.

The section on “Outcomes” provides ample evidence of the program’s commitment to the college’s core outcomes as well as the outcomes needed to support professional competence. We appreciate that the “Meeting Our Goals” section included citation of four goals named in the 2003 Program Review. Reflecting on past goals and the degree to which they were achieved informs future goal setting.

With regards to your “Strategic Plan”, we make the following *comments and observations*.

1. Continue the development of a comprehensive recruitment program. *Attracting students in the current economy is less challenging than in boom times. Attracting highly qualified and motivated students who understand the career*

path they are choosing and supporting them in their decision process is a challenge no matter what the economy. Your list of ideas for recruitment is quite lengthy, so we suggest prioritizing it several ways, e.g., potential for payback or difficulty/expense of implementation, and then tackling two or three of the ideas in each of the next few years. Please keep us informed of the success of these efforts as well as the support you need to accomplish them.

2. Continue development and maintenance of the distance learning program. *Your efforts to serve students in more locations than currently will bring new challenges. Many students are looking for opportunities that will allow them to “stay home” and their “home” community needs them to stay there. Your willingness to address those challenges and serve those students, while working with their “home” college and local employers, is much appreciated.*
3. Development of a career ladder. *Your assessment of the MLT program being in the middle of the career ladder of laboratory professions is informative. We encourage you to consider a Career Pathway Certificate of Completion (CPCC), comprised of courses solely from within the MLT AAS degree, as an entry level for those needing to get to a job sooner than two years. (It will be much easier to obtain state approval for a CPCC than for a stand-alone certificate that would include courses outside of the AAS degree.) We also encourage you to work on an articulation agreement with OIT, or other institution, providing for further advancement of our graduates. (Please work with Dean of Curriculum Support in development an agreement as we are moving to a more formalized process that will ensure transfer of coursework, thus protecting our graduates.)*

Thank you for efforts to create and maintain a quality Medical Laboratory Technology program serving students inside and outside the district. Your collaboration with other colleges in support of students at distance from PCC is a model which other programs, here and elsewhere, will replicate in years to come.