Dear AAS Students:

We want to update all students regarding changes to courses for the Summer semester 2020. Clinical affiliates across the nation have suspended student rotations for the foreseeable future as facilities prepare for COVID-19 patients. Courses in Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) that require a clinical rotation/competency will not be offered during the Summer semester 2020.

The Faculty and Staff have discussed many options and come to the difficult conclusion that allowing students to register for clinical courses for this summer is not in the best interest of our students or clinical affiliates as we cannot guarantee that rotation hours can be completed. COVID-19 is bound to impact facilities around the nation, not only with the influx of patients, but also staff shortages due to employees becoming ill. We also need to consider the aftermath of the pandemic once the situation has stabilized. Facilities are likely to be overwhelmed with patients who have avoided seeing their healthcare providers during social distancing initiatives. Additionally, canceling the Summer clinical courses may allow students to reschedule rotations that were cancelled during the Spring semester.

We encourage students to enroll in general education and support courses during the Summer semester. If you plan to continue on in the Bachelor of Science program in MLS there may also be additional general educational courses you can take during the Summer. You can view these course by running a ‘what-if’ in Cattracks and selecting the BS degree.

The non-clinical MLS courses available this summer are:
MLS 1001 Online Orientation
MLS 2003 Applied Laboratory Math & Statistics

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students who are scheduled to graduate during the Summer semester 2020 will be allowed to register for their MLS Courses requiring clinical hours. These students should contact their clinical coordinator to be given an override to be enrolled into these courses. It is our hope that having only a few students requiring clinical rotations will not drastically overwhelm our affiliates. These students should discuss taking their clinical course this summer with their mentors to determine if it is possible and appropriate. We cannot guarantee these rotations will be available, but you will have to complete the clinical competency portion of the course before being allowed to graduate.

If you are unsure of which courses to take during the Summer semester, please reach out to the AAS MLS advisors, Ashley Wilkinson (ashleywilkinson2@weber.edu) or Cindi Kranek (cindikranek@weber.edu). The MLS Faculty and Staff are not permitted to work on campus at this time, so email is the best way to contact your advisor. Your advisors are not available by phone since they are working remotely.
Please know that we are thinking of all of you that are working in healthcare facilities across the country. We applaud your hard work and dedication to the laboratory profession and to patient care. We wish you and your families well.

Sincerely,

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