



ASM-WSU Microbiology Certificate program Statement of Support

Weber State University (WSU) is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). In partnership with the [American Society for Microbiology](#) (ASM) students who have a bachelor's degree in a qualifying field (e.g. biological science or chemistry) will have the opportunity to, through the ASM-WSU Microbiology Certificate program, qualify to take the Technologist in Microbiology M(ASCP) certification examination from the [American Society for Clinical Pathology](#) (ASCP) via Route 3.

Students in the ASM-WSU Microbiology Certificate program will complete a series of four MLS microbiology courses given in an online classroom environment followed by a one-month clinical rotation in microbiology. The coursework will give the student background knowledge in clinical microbiology, biostatistics, and laboratory practices. Following the courses, the student will begin clinical hours with a qualified mentor to learn, practice, and perfect the laboratory skills in microbiology to the required level of competency.

The laboratory component of the program must be completed at the student's work facility or other approved clinical site. For this to take place, a legal affiliation agreement between the supporting laboratory and WSU must be completed prior to the student being accepted to the program. The assistance of a mentor or other facilitator will be required for the lab competencies. The mentor will **not** serve as a full-time clinical instructor, but should be available to answer questions, evaluate core laboratory competencies, and give valuable assistance as needed. Various mentors may be utilized dependent upon the organization and size of the facility.

Students enrolled in the certificate program may complete various projects emphasizing workload recording, test method validation, procedure manual evaluation, CAP and CLIA requirements, and instrument selection. To complete these projects, the student will need access to procedure manuals, laboratory data, instrument validation data, and on occasion utilize laboratory instruments from the supporting facility. Students should not work on these projects as a part of their regular work duties.

Minimum Clinical Competency Hours Required for the ASM-WSU Microbiology Certificate program: This program requires a minimum of 160 of clinical hours in a clinical microbiology laboratory. The availability of the individual microbiology sections will vary by hospital system and location, but bacteriology is a necessity of each location. If available, time should be spent in the virology, mycology, parasitology, mycobacteriology, and molecular diagnostic sections. Please note that hours listed are a minimum and that the goal of the clinical experience is for the laboratory mentor to feel comfortable with the student's performance at the entry level. Students must complete the competency checklist in order to be deemed competent. If more time is needed than the minimum – the student should expect to spend additional time. Competency checklists may be accessed on the WSU MLS website at: <https://weber.edu/mls/labcompetency.html>.

For questions or concerns, contact:
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Office: 1-801-626-6785



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Dumke College of Health Professions

DEPARTMENT OF
MEDICAL LABORATORY
SCIENCE S

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Prospective Student: _____ W #: _____ e-mail: _____		
Remaining sections to be filled out by the laboratory manager or supervisor:		
Facility Name: _____		
Address: _____ City/State/Zip Code: _____		
Manager/Supervisor: _____ e-mail: _____		
Title: _____ Phone: _____		
Is this student a current employee of your organization? Yes _____ No _____		
Please indicate all on-site areas of Microbiology available for the student's clinical experience: At a minimum, the clinical site needs to have bacteriology available to the student. The other areas listed are not required; however, please indicate if available.		
Bacteriology (REQUIRED) _____	Parasitology _____	Virology _____
Molecular Diagnostics _____	Mycology _____	Mycobacteria _____
Laboratory Accreditation: (CAP, JCAHO, COLA, CLIA, other) specify other _____		
Dates student is requesting support (optional): _____		
Note: In addition to this support form, Weber State University and the laboratory facility must complete an affiliation agreement before the student can start rotations or be accepted into the ASM-WSU program. The affiliation agreement will outline requirements and may require students to comply with a background check, drug screen , and provide a record of their immunizations . The MLS department will be reaching out to you or someone at your facility to set up this affiliation. The MLS Department will inform students of any clinical requirements upon program acceptance.		

It is my understanding that prior to being accepted into the ASM-WSU Microbiology Certificate program, the student must obtain a statement of support indicating that the laboratory understands their responsibility. Please see the previous page for information explaining how the lab competencies are completed for the program.

Student Signature

Date

Manager/Supervisor Signature

Date