ATTN: BS Students in Medical Laboratory Sciences  03/31/20
RE: Changes to Online Courses Offered During Summer Semester 2020

Dear BS 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.

MLS students are not allowed to register for MLS 3310 Adv. Blood Bank, MLS 3313 Adv. Hematology and Hemostasis, or MLS 3316 Adv. Microbiology during the Summer semester. We recommend students replace those clinical courses with non-clinical courses or any remaining general education or support course requirements. With careful planning, it may be possible to keep your anticipated graduation date.

The non-clinical MLS courses available this summer are:
MLS 3302 Biostatistics, Research, and Lab Practices
MLS 3312 Immunology/Virology
MLS 3314 Adv. Clinical Chemistry
MLS 4410 Interdisciplinary Healthcare Teams
MLS 4411 Simulated Lab I
MLS 4412 Simulated Lab II
MLS 4415 Lab Teaching and Supervision

Additional sections of these courses will be available to accommodate more students.

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; MLS 3310 Adv. Blood Bank, MLS 3313 Adv. Hematology and Hemostasis, and MLS 3316 Adv. Microbiology. 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.
If you are unsure of which courses to take during the Summer semester, please reach out to the BS MLS advisors, Christy Achter (christyachter@weber.edu) or Kandi Tait (kanditait@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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