06/25/20

MLS Online Students
RE: Fall Semester

Dear Students,

The last few semesters have been a trying time for everyone and the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) wanted to communicate with you about what to expect during the Fall semester as the world continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. The department had to close most of the online courses during the Summer because it was clear students would have issues maintaining laboratory support to perform competencies. This, in part, remains true but the department is committed to continuing your progression to graduation. As such, all courses will be offered again to students in the online AAS, BS, and Hybrid programs.

Given the continued heterogeneity of COVID-19 case numbers across the nation we realize some students will have issues completing the required course competencies. The department has outlined some suggestions below to help ensure successful completion of your clinical competencies in the Fall:

- Contact your laboratory mentor/s or clinical education coordinators now to discuss what courses you plan to take in the Fall.
- Try to schedule your clinical competency training at the start of the semester to offer the best chance of completion by the end of the semester.
- Faculty will consider flexible competency-based options for senior students to complete their checklists on a case by case basis.
- The department is temporarily altering its competency completion requirement for each course to extend the time students are eligible to complete the laboratory competency beyond the immediate following semester. This will allow students who do lose laboratory support to still progress in the program and complete the competency once support is reestablished.

Your safety and continued educational training in Medical Laboratory Sciences is our top priority. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this trying time. The department will continue to communicate updates and changes to our policies throughout the Summer. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your online coordinator who will help you plan for the Fall semester.

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Sincerely,

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