

**Medical Laboratory Assistant
Program Approval Matrix (PAM)
Executive Summary
August 8th 2024**

Project Rationale:

This program proposal outlines the rationale for establishing a Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA) certificate program at Barton Community College. The program aims to address specific needs within the healthcare field and provide a valuable career pathway for various individuals. The development of the MLA program was initiated by the MLT program staff and faculty in collaboration with the program's Advisory Board. The overwhelming positive response from board members underscores a substantial need for such a program within the healthcare community.

Program of Study

- **New or Modified Existing Program (if modified, please explain proposed changes)**

New Program

- **Program Description**

The MLA certificate program at Barton Community College (BCC) will consist of 28 credit hours with courses selected within the MLT curriculum and the Medical Assistant program at BCC to offer pathway options for both programs. The MLA program offers a stepping stone for Phlebotomy technicians seeking additional laboratory skills and knowledge before pursuing the full MLT degree. It reduces the initial commitment required, potentially increasing enrollment and engagement and will also provide a pathway into the Medical Assistant program.

- **Program Objectives**

Specific NAACLS Objectives/Standards: At entry level, MLAs are able to:

1. Define the role of the medical laboratory assistant in the healthcare delivery system;
2. Outline the processes related to patient registration;
3. Perform specimen requisitioning and processing;
4. Follow standard operating procedures to collect blood and non-blood specimens;
5. Transport specimens following safety regulations, predetermined criteria, and standard protocol;
6. Identify and report potential pre-analytical errors that may occur during specimen collection, labeling, transporting and processing;
7. Recognize and use appropriate medical terminology;
8. Demonstrate knowledge of infection control and safety practices;
9. Prepare blood and non-blood specimens for analysis according to standard operating procedure;
10. Prepare/reconstitute reagents, standards and controls according to standard operating procedure; K. Follow established quality control protocols;

11. Perform appropriate tests at the medical laboratory assistant level, according to standard operating procedures;
12. Communicate (verbally and non-verbally) in the workplace;
13. Utilize computers, information systems and other technology as related to job duties and responsibilities.

- **Program Exit Points (SAPP, Certificate and/or Degree)**

1. Phlebotomy certification ASCP eligibility and SAPP Phlebotomy program (completion of the MLTC 1503 Principles of Phlebotomy and MLTC 1501 Phlebotomy clinical practicum)
2. Medical Laboratory Assistant Certificate program – eligibility for ASCP – MLA certification

- **Delivery Method**

Online and cooperative student lab hours.

- **Facility Needs (if applicable)**

S116 MLT Laboratory if needed for on-campus students or those without a cooperative lab

- **Length of Program Exit Points (# of Weeks)**

Three 16-week terms = 48 weeks

- **Program Location**

Barton Online with cooperative lab

- **Faculty Needs**

No additional faculty needed

- **Third-Party Accreditation**

1. ASCP - American Society for Clinical Pathology
2. NAACLS – National Association for Accreditation of Clinical Laboratory Science

- **Partnerships**

Medical Laboratory Technology advisory board members and clinical affiliates.

Resource Needs:

Barton Online; NAACLS accreditation requires site visit and annual reporting.

Other Unique Features/Details

Projected Implementation Term:

Summer/Fall 2025

Respectfully Submitted By:

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