MLSCI 410 – Introduction to Clinical Laboratory Management

Overview / General Information

The MLSCI 410 course, “Introduction to Clinical Laboratory Management” is designed to introduce final year MLS students to the general principles of clinical laboratory management. The course is also designed to provide the student with resources and assistance in finding employment post-graduation from the program as well as an understanding of how laboratories are managed.

Policy about course outlines can be found in §23.4(2) of the University Calendar.

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Course Coordinator / Instructor(s)

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Course / Learning Objectives

A. To introduce tools associated with the professional career planning process
B. To introduce concepts associated with management and leadership of professional laboratory organizations
C. To introduce students to selected management topics including:
   a. continuous quality improvement techniques to ensure quality laboratory services including point-of-care testing
   b. knowledge of the health care system and professional laboratory organizations and responsibilities
   c. knowledge of the determinants of health and their implications for the laboratory system
   d. recognition that change initiated in one area will impact on other areas of health care services
   e. identifying the potential for conflict and using negotiation skills to manage conflict
   f. applying change management strategies
   g. provides for the health care needs of the public, keeping the welfare and confidentiality of the patient paramount at all times, and respecting the dignity, values, privacy and
beliefs of the individual
h. complies with legislation governing medical laboratory technology and applies these to the practice of the profession
i. seeks help and guidance when asked to perform beyond competence
j. discusses procedure in order to facilitate informed consent and respects a patient’s right to refuse treatment
k. exercises a judicious approach to the right to refuse to participate in potentially dangerous situations
l. takes responsibility and is accountable for professional actions
m. promotes an awareness and understanding of the contribution the medical laboratory technologist provides to the consumer and public
n. recognizing how ethical issues in the health care environment affect the medical laboratory technologist

Methods of Instruction

The course is based on a hybrid model of instruction, with the main focus being on face-to-face classes. For example, these classes may be lecture style, workshop based, group work, or discussion and presentation. There is also an online component of the course, conducted in eClass, which includes assignments and online discussions as well as resources. This allows for asynchronous learning and resource retrieval. There are various presenters for the course, which may include MLS staff, University of Alberta Office of Safe Disclosure & Human Rights staff, Laboratory Medicine & Pathology and Alberta Health Services managers and staff, an associate lawyer (former MLS student), as well as a Clinical Biochemist and a research technologist, both with Laboratory Medicine & Pathology.

Distribution of Marks and List of Assignments

The grade earned for this course is determined by the number of assignments that are completed satisfactorily. To receive a grade of C, complete four assignments and hand them in by the due date shown. To obtain a higher grade you must complete extra assignments from the following list. Each additional assignment will increase your grade by 1.

Therefore complete:
- any 4 assignments for a grade of C
- any 5 assignments for a grade of C+
- any 6 assignments for a grade of B
- any 7 assignments for a grade of B
- any 8 assignments for a grade of B+
- any 9 assignments for a grade of A
- any 10 assignments for a grade of A
- any 11 assignments for a grade of A+

Each assignment has a separate due date (see due dates below). Assignments are to be submitted electronically to Roberta Martindale, roberta.martindale@ualberta.ca, from your ualberta email address. At the beginning of the document please include your name. For all assignments ensure that you have referenced your sources appropriately.
For each unexcused absence from class, the grade assigned for the course will be decreased by one. Also, if you are 10 or more minutes late for a class it will also be considered an unexcused absence and the grade assigned for the course will be decreased by one. Because the majority of the presenters in the course are volunteering their time, participation in each class is important and may be considered when determining a grade for the course.

Attendance

Please note that attendance in class is compulsory and if you are sick you must phone the MLS Office (492-6601) before the class begins. For each unexcused absence the grade assigned for the course will be decreased by one. Unexcused absences also include arriving 10 or more minutes late for class.