

Proposal for a 4+1 Program
Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science/Master of Science
in Medical Sciences
Program Policy Statement

Presented to the Faculty Senate

University of Delaware Newark, DE 19716

By Esther E. Biswas-Fiss, Ph.D., MB(ASCP) Professor and
Chair

Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences October 27, 2017

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This proposal requests approval for a 4+1, combined BS/MS in Medical Laboratory Science (BS) and Medical Sciences (MMS). This degree will be offered through the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences.

I. Program History and Description

A. Statement of purpose and expectation of graduate study in the program

This accelerated degree program provides students with the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree in Medical Laboratory Science and a master's degree in Medical Sciences in less time at less cost than completing both programs individually. With a combined degree, students will have specialized, in-depth professional skills knowledge and will be prepared to succeed within the increasingly complex biotechnology sector. In today's competitive employment market, individuals seeking management and leadership positions in the laboratory based professions require a graduate level degree. The 4+1, BS/MS in MLS/MMS will allow students to specifically tailor their graduate program of study to meet their specific career goals, whether it be laboratory administration, research or laboratory science education.

While completing the BS in Medical Laboratory Science degree, students will take six (6) credits of graduate-level courses in lieu of regularly required undergraduate courses in the major. The six credits will be counted toward both the Bachelor of Science degree and the Master of Science.

Benefits of pursuing an accelerated 4+1 BS/MS, MLS/MMS student include:

- Completing both degrees in less time
- Graduate credits taken in undergraduate junior & senior year may apply toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees.
- Completing a full-time master's degree without interrupting your professional career.
- A leg up in the job market upon graduation.
- Opportunities to engage in advanced study
- Better preparation for credentialing like the ASCP BOC exam.

An overachieving goal of this program is to provide a cadre of leaders in the laboratory based health professions. The new program aligns with the vision of the University of Delaware as a center for graduate level professional education and training.

Outcomes for the MMS include the expectation that students will be able to:

- Critically review, appraise and synthesize the health sciences literature;
- Identify and systematically investigate research questions pertinent to clinical laboratory practice;
- Synthesize new concepts, models and theories through the appropriate application of empirical knowledge and the scientific method to help resolve clinical laboratory and health sciences issues or problems;
- Apply the advanced knowledge to evaluate or design more effective ways to deliver clinical laboratory and health related services;
- Use a variety of information technologies to address both theoretical and practical problems, enhance communication, and disseminate knowledge to applicable audiences and interest groups;
- Demonstrate proficiency in both oral and written communication, using both scholarly and technical formats;
- Work collaboratively with others to advance the scientific bases of knowledge in clinical laboratory science via ongoing scholarship;
- Integrate basic principles of ethics and cultural sensitivity within all interpersonal and professional activities.

The proposed new program is compatible with the academic priorities of the University by supporting the initiative of creating a diverse and stimulating undergraduate academic environment. This new initiative aligns with the UD Path to Prominence *One Health Initiative* where the University desires to expand its graduate level health and medical education programs.

B. Current Status

This proposal requests approval for a non-thesis 4+1, BS/MS Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science/MS degree in Medical Sciences.

C. Degrees Offered

BS in Medical Laboratory Science/MS in Medical Sciences

II. Admission

Admission to the graduate program is competitive. Those who meet stated minimum requirements are no guaranteed admission, nor are those who fail to meet all of those requirements necessarily precluded from admission if they offer appropriate strengths.

A. Admission Requirements

Expected Minimum Requirements for Admission into the 4+1, Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science/Master of Science in Medical Sciences – Admissions decisions are made by the Masters in Medical Sciences Program Committee. Students will be admitted to the program based on enrollment availability and their ability to meet the following minimum recommended entrance requirements:

- Application is competitive and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 is required for consideration. A high level of academic success in first four semesters of coursework of the MLS major is required.
- The GRE is not required as successful completion of a rigorous, accreditation standards based (hence uniform). BS degree in the laboratory based health professions is a reliable indicator of success in the MS in Medical Sciences. Completion of the TOFEL requirements are described in detail below for international applicants.
- Written statement of goals and objectives (the personal statement) that clearly identifies the applicant's research and curriculum interests and explains how admission to the program will facilitate his/her professional objectives.
- Current resume and two letters of recommendation.

B. Specific Admission Procedures –

Students apply for admission to the Masters in Medical Sciences by May 15th of their sophomore year and are provisionally admitted as juniors. Application is competitive and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 is required for consideration. Following provisional admission, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout their remaining undergraduate studies. Students who fail to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress may be restricted from progressing to the graduate phase of the program. Once students complete their baccalaureate degree, the provisional status is removed.

Information about how to apply to the MMS is available online. ***Some application requirements specific to this program are:***

One of the two letters of reference must be from a Department of MLS professor who is familiar with the applicant.

The personal statement must specify the intention to pursue the 4+1 track with a Masters in Medical Sciences.

C. Applicant Deadlines –

Applicants must submit all of the following items directly to the University Office of Graduate Studies using the online admission process before admission can be considered:

1. A completed application should be submitted no later than May 15th of the sophomore year.
2. Only current University of Delaware students can apply to the 4+1 program. The admission application fee will be waived.

3. Applicants must submit responses to specific questions asked on the application; a resume; and a statement of professional goals and objectives.
4. Applicants must submit at least two letters of recommendation. For students applying to the 4+1 BS/MS programs, one letter must be from a professor in the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences. The letters of recommendation are a part of the on-line application process.
5. One official transcript of all US college and universities attended must be sent directly from the institution to the Office of Graduate Studies or be provided in a sealed envelope with the application packet. Students who have attended the University of Delaware need not supply a transcript from Delaware.
6. International student applications must demonstrate a satisfactory level of proficiency in the English language if English is not the first language. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TEOFL) is offered by the ETS in test centers throughout the world. The University requires an official TOEFL score of 90 to be admitted to the undergraduate program.

7. International student must be offered admission to the University and provide evidence of adequate financial resources before a student visa will be issued. The University has been authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students. International students are required to purchase the University-sponsored insurance plan or its equivalent.
8. All first-time international student are required to attend the Orientation Day for new international student, which takes place before classes begin.

D. Special Requirements – Immunizations

It is a Delaware State Board of Health regulation and a University of Delaware mandate that all graduate student with a birth date after January 1, 1957, be immunized for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). Also, students may be required to provide evidence of PPD (Mantoux). Tuberculosis Screening Test within 6 months prior to beginning classes. Students who are admitted beginning January 2002 are required to show proof of vaccination against meningococcal disease unless granted a waiver. Students should refer to and complete the Student Health Service Immunization Documentation form upon admission.

E. Admission Application Processing –

Applications will be processed as they are submitted. The admission process is completed as follows: First, completed applications consisting of the application form, undergraduate, letters of recommendations, resume, statement of purpose, and written statement of goals and objectives are reviewed by the Program Committee of the Medical Sciences Program. The Program Committee arrives at an admission decision after reviewing the completed application. Students are notified in writing of the admissions decision within two weeks of the decision. It should be noted, admission to the BS/MS in Medical Sciences does not confer admission to the Ph.D. in Medical Sciences, which is a distinct graduate program offered through the College of Health Sciences.

III. Academic

A. Degree Requirements

1. Course Requirements

Undergraduate Phase – Students will complete all the required credits for the bachelors in MLS.

Students will take two (2) 600-level courses as part of the requirements for the MLS degree. These courses are to be chosen from the course requirements for the MEM and will also count towards their MEM degree requirements.

Table 1 – Recommended 4+1 Graduate Courses to be Completed in the Undergraduate Phase

Traditional MLS BS Degree Curriculum	4+1 BS/MS Degree Curriculum
<i>MEDT 390 Intro to Genetics and Molecular Diagnostics</i>	<i>MEDT 690 Genetic & Molecular Diagnostics for the Clinical Lab</i> (name change under review in Curriculog – Clinical Molecular Cell Biology)
<i>MEDT 375 – Statistics & Research for Medical Laboratory Scientists</i>	<i>MEDT 603 – Research Design</i>

****HELPFUL HINT**:** After choosing the two 6xx-level courses (as mentioned above) and you have room in your schedule for courses that do NOT apply to your Undergraduate degree program, consider dual-listed, 4xx/6xx, courses and take the course(s) as a 6xx-level. These courses may possibly count toward your Master's degree, with prior approval from the Office of Graduate and Professional Education.

Students enrolled in MEDT690 will have different expectations than those enrolled in MEDT490, the undergraduate counterpart. Specifically, examination questions for MEDT 690 will require demonstration of a higher degree of synthesis and application of learning objectives in the course. MEDT 690 students will be required to complete an out of class project which demonstrates their ability to build and integrate basic concepts with those available in the current scientific literature.

Graduate Phase - Students will complete an additional 26credits of coursework to meet the course requirements for the MMS degree. Students must achieve a 3.0 GPA (B average) in their graduate work to earn the MMS.

MS in Medical Sciences: Curriculum

SEMESTER CREDITS

CORE COURSES (12 credits)

MEDT 603	Research Design	3
MEDT 604	Methods in Bioscience Education	3
MEDT 605	Regulatory and Fiscal Issues in Laboratory Management	3
MEDT 803	Seminar (3 total, 1 per semester – 1.0 credit each)	3

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCES (8 credits)¹

MEDT 611	Advanced Practicum I	2
MEDT 612	Advanced Practicum II	2
OR		
MEDT 631	Laboratory Education Administration and Instruction*	2
MEDT 613	Advanced Practicum III	2
MEDT 614	Advanced Practicum IV	2
OR		
MEDT 632	Laboratory Administration and Management	2

SCHOLARLY PRODUCT & CONCENTRATION ELECTIVES (12-14)^{2,3}

MEDT 868	Research (2 total, 3 credits each)	6
OR		
MEDT 815	Contemporary Topics Research (2 total, 3 credits each)	6
Concentration Elective(s) ³		6-8

Total Credits for the Master of Science in Medical Sciences minimum 32

¹Students must earn 8 credits in the fieldwork experiences category through an individualized combination of the following courses: Advanced Practica, Laboratory Education and Administration, Laboratory Administration and Management).

²To meet the scholarly product requirement, students may take a literature review/health services/ outcomes based research project course (MEDT 800) or engage in a wet-bench research project with a selected PI (MEDT 868). Students must meet with the MMS program director to determine which course best meets their educational needs.

³See Table 2 for a list of potential concentration elective courses. Selections are tailored to meet each student's educational goals. Support from affected departments were obtained

during the initial approval process for the MS in Medical Sciences (16-17 Senate Cycle).

Table 2 - POTENTIAL CONCENTRATION ELECTIVE COURSES

MEDT608	Molecular Preparatory Techniques	2
MEDT625	Basic Molecular Techniques	4
MEDT 690	Genetics and Molecular Diagnostics	3
MEDT 691	Molecular Diagnostics	3
MEDT 692	Application of Molecular Diagnostic Techniques	3
MEDT651	Cell and Tissue Culture Techniques	4
MEDT 627	Introduction to Flow Cytometry	2
MEDT635	Practical Genomic, Proteomics and Bioinformatics	3
MEDT626	Protein Purification & Characterization	3
KAAP655	Advanced Physiology of Exercise	3
KAAP680	Exercise, Nutrition and Bone Health	3
KAAP802	Human Cardiovascular Control	3
KAAP840	Advanced Human Anatomy	3
MEDT805	Biomarker Development	3
MEDT810	Evidence Based Practice	3
NTDT610	Overweight/Obesity Prevention and Management	3
NTDT611	Advanced Nutrition	3
NTDT630	Trace Minerals & Vitamins	3
NTDT640	Nutrition and Aging	3
NTDT655	Issues in International Nutrition	3
NURS621	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS812	Responsible Conduct of Research	1 (online, fall)
BINF644	Bioinformatics	3
CISC636	Bioinformatics	3
CHEM641	Biochemistry	3
CHEM642	Biochemistry	3
EDUC856	Introduction to Statistical Inference	3

2. Course Substitutions. Courses in the core curriculum may not be substituted.

Concentration electives will be chosen in consultation with the program director in accordance with the student's career goals. Transfer graduate coursework cannot count towards the degree.

3. Grade Minimums – Students must achieve a 3.0 GPA (B average) in their graduate work to earn their MMS.

4. Expectations of facility of expression in English (oral and written) – All students will be expected to be sufficiently conversant in English and knowledgeable in the written work to convey clear, logical and complex written expressions.

B. Committees for exams, thesis or dissertations

N/A - the MMS is a non-thesis MS degree

C. Time Limit for Completing the Degree & Definition of Satisfactory Academic Progress

1. Timetable. The time limit for completion of degree requirements begins with the date of matriculation and is specifically detailed in the student's letter of admission. Students entering the program are given 6 consecutive semesters to complete the program requirements. An extension of time limit may be granted for circumstances beyond the student's control. Requests for time extensions must be made in writing and approved by the student's dissertation committee and the director of the Medical Sciences Program. The director will forward the request to the Office of Graduate studies.

2. Submission of Required University Forms. To initiate the process for degree conferral, candidates must submit an "Application for Advanced Degree" to the Office of Graduate Studies. The application deadlines are February 15 for Spring candidates, January 15 for Winter candidates, May 15 for Summer candidates, and September 15 for Fall candidates. The application must be signed by the program director and department chair. There is an application fee of for master's degree candidates that is published by the university. Payment is required when the application is submitted.

Upon completion of the audit, the Office of Graduate Studies notifies students in writing when they have met all degree requirements.

3. Grade Requirements for Satisfactory Progress. Failure to satisfactorily progress in the program will be based on the University Graduate Policy as noted below: The Office of Graduate Studies monitors the academic progress of all graduate students and notifies

students in writing of all academic deficiencies. The cumulative GPA after each 9-hour increment determines academic standing. The University's Academic Probation Policy is expressed in the following chart:

4. Consequence for failure to make satisfactory progress

If student is on:

If a student is on	Earns a GPA of	The status becomes
Any status	3.0 or above	Clear
Clear	2.99-2.5	Warning
Clear	2.49-2.	Probation
Probation	Below 3.0	Dismissal
Warning	Below 3.0	Probation
Any status	Below 2.0	Dismissal

5. Reasons for Dismissal/Termination from the Program. The Office of Graduate Studies notifies students when they are dismissed from graduate programs without completing a degree. Dismissals usually take place at the end of a term. Students may be dismissed for the following reasons:

- Upon the expiration of the three-year time limit required for students to complete their degree.
- Upon the failure to meet the grade point average requirements as stated in the policy on Academic Deficiency and Probation.

6. Thesis/dissertation progress timetable guidelines

N/A – the MMS is a non-thesis MS degree

7. Thesis/dissertation defense guidelines

N/A – the MMS is a non-thesis MS degree

IV. Assessment Plan

Faculty who will be affiliated with the program plan to work with the UD Center for Educational Effectiveness in spring 2017 to fully develop the program's assessment plan. This work will entail the development of a curriculum map to align selected courses with the intended learning outcomes of the program.

A. Direct Measures. Four Learning Outcomes have been identified for the program. Upon completion of the program, all students will:

1. Employ research methods to assess a problem in the field of medical science in an ethical manner. Course Assessed: MEDT 603 *Research Design*
2. Communicate research findings in an effective manner. Course Assessed: MEDT 803 *Graduate Seminar*
3. Demonstrate the ability to quantitatively analyze data using several different statistical procedures. Course Assessed: MEDT 868 *Experimental Research* or MEDT 800 *Contemporary Topics Research*
4. Evaluate and assess regulatory and fiscal situations encountered in laboratory settings and make best-practice, evidence based recommendations. Course Assessed: MEDT 605 *Regulatory and Fiscal Issue in Laboratory Practice*

B. Indirect Measures.

Alumni Surveys Six Months, One-Year and Five-Year Post-Graduation Surveys of graduates will be conducted one-year and five-year post-graduation. The surveys will focus on two major areas: program/education effectiveness and demographic information pertaining to employment status and/or graduate/professional school enrollment.

Field Experience Supervisor Surveys

Upon completion of the field experience(s), the field experience supervisor will complete a rubric designed to assess the affective skills demonstrated by the student.

V. Financial Aid

- A. During your first four years in the MLS program, you pay undergraduate tuition and fees. During the fifth year of study, and any subsequent period if it became necessary, applicable tuition and fees are those for MMS graduate students. There are no additional costs for the students in this program other than traditional graduate student tuition and fee expenses. This is a tuition generating graduate program and tuition remission and/or stipends are not offered. Graduate students in this program would be eligible to apply for financial aid as applicable.

VI. Departmental Operations

- A. This program will start in the fall of 2018. We initially anticipate approximately 10-15 students following this course of study each year. Over the period, 2016 to present three tenure track and two CT track faculty have been recruited to the department. These faculty will have primary teaching responsibility for the MMS core curricular courses. Existing departmental faculty will also participate in the program (Table 3).

Table 3 - Current Faculty Affiliated with the Program

Name	Degree	Rank	Specialty
Susan J. Hall	Ph.D.	Deputy Dean	Administration
Esther Biswas-Fiss	MS, Ph.D.	Professor & Chair	Molecular Diagnostics & Biotechnology
Leslie Allshouse	M.Ed., M.B.A.	Senior Instructor	Immunohematology
Mona Batish	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Applied Molecular Biology
Subhasis Biswas	Ph.D.	Professor	Applied Molecular Biology
Karen Brinker	M.S.	Senior Instructor	Clinical Chemistry
Virginia Hughes	Ph.D.	Associate Professor	Hematology and Public Policy

Donald Lehman	Ed.D.	Associate Professor	Medical Microbiology
Huey-Jen Lin	Ph.D.	Associate Professor	Molecular Diagnostics
Raelene Maser	Ph.D.	Associate Professor	Hematology
Mary Ann McLane	Ph.D.	Professor	Clinical Chemistry
Vijay Parashar	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Applied Molecular Biology
Marie Wood	M.S.	Instructor	Clinical Chemistry & Medical Microbiology

Graduate Coordinator. The MLS department chair will appoint a graduate coordinator for the Medical Sciences Master’s Program from among the department faculty. The term of service for the graduate coordinator is three years, with no limit on the number of consecutive terms that may be served. The graduate coordinator serves as the program representative and point person and is responsible for the following:

- Corresponding with prospective students
- Maintaining program records
- Holding elections for members of the Program Committee
- Chairing Program Committee meetings
- Admitting students to the program following approval of the Program Committee
- Chairing meetings of the Medical Sciences faculty as necessary for review/revision of program policies and curriculum
- Final approval of degree granting

Program Committee. The Medical Sciences Graduate Program Committee will consist of an affiliated faculty member from the department, serving in staggered, three- year terms. The graduate program coordinator will serve as chair of the Program Committee. Responsibilities of the Program Committee shall include:

- Admission of students into the program
- Approval of changes to the graduate curriculum
- Oversight of student progress in the program, including dismissal of students who fail to make satisfactory progress

Medical Sciences Students

B. Laboratory Safety and Research Regulations and Standards of Student

Conduct. Graduate students performing laboratory research are subject to all University regulations regarding safety, human subjects, animal use, and hazardous and radioactive material use and disposal. These guidelines may be found in the University of Delaware Policies and Procedures Manual. Additional information can be obtained from the UD Research and Graduate Studies website: <http://www.udel.edu/research/>
All training and regulatory authorizations must be updated at the time of proposal submission.

C. Student Organization. Students in the program will be encouraged to periodically meet as a group so that the student representative can pass on any pertinent information from program meetings and so the group can discuss any issues or concerns they might have. Concerns can be brought to the attention of the program faculty by the elected student representative.

D. Travel. Students will be encouraged to attend regional scientific meetings and symposia. Funding will be sought from available University/College/departmental funds should a student attend a conference for the purpose of presenting a peer-reviewed poster or to play a leadership role in the conference.

VII. Appendices

Appendix 1.- Suggested Schedule of Course Completion

Appendix 2.- Letters of Approval College of Health Science Administration – See attached

Appendix 1 - Suggested Course Sequence

**Department of Medical Laboratory
Sciences**

**4+1, BS/MS Bachelor of Science Medical Laboratory Science/Master of Science in
Medical Sciences**

Sample Schedule of Course Completion

Undergraduate Phase

MEDT 603 Research Design	3 (satisfies MS core)
MEDT 690 Genetic & Mole.Diagn. for Clinical Lab	<u>3</u> (satisfies concentration elective)
	6

Graduate Phase

Summer

MEDT 868 Research	3
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OR

MEDT 815 Contemporary Topics Research	3
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MEDT 803 Seminar	<u>1</u>
	4

Fall

MEDT 868 Research	3
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OR

MEDT 815 Contemporary Topics Research	3
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MEDT 604 Methods in Bioscience Education	3
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MEDT 803 Seminar	1
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Concentration Elective	3
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Fieldwork Experiences Selective *	<u>2</u>
	12

Spring

MEDT 605 Regulatory & Fiscal Issues in Lab Mgmt.	3
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MEDT 803 Seminar	1
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Fieldwork Experiences Selectives *	<u>6</u>
	10

*Students must earn 8 credits in the fieldwork experiences category through an individualized combination of the following courses: Advanced Practica; Laboratory Education Administration and Instruction; Laboratory Administration and Management.

Appendix 2 – Letters of Support