



UNIVERSITY of  
NORTH FLORIDA

May 16, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

To: R. E. LeMon, Associate Vice Chancellor  
Academic and Student Affairs

Richard Stevens, Director  
Academic and Student Affairs

From: <sup>NEW</sup> Mark Workman, Provost

Subject: Request for Limited Access Status and Exception to 120 Credit Hour  
Requirement

On March 20, 2012, the UNF Board of Trustees approved the College of Arts and Sciences – Biology department request to establish limited access status and to exceed 120 required credit hours for its newly created Medical Laboratory Sciences concentration associated with the B.S. in Biology degree program.

**Overview**

There is currently a national shortage of laboratory professionals and according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, it is projected that 81,000 technologists and technicians will be needed to replace retirees and 68,000 will be needed to fill new positions by 2014. This program will help address the growing local need for professional laboratory workers and provide UNF students with career training and job opportunities upon graduation.

MLS program development has been guided by a consortium of local hospital and laboratory professionals. Qualification for national certification and state licensure as a Medical Laboratory Scientist requires completion of academic science credits from a regionally accredited college or university and completion of a medical laboratory science training program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). There are currently no other four year programs offering academic coursework for MLS in Northeast Florida. Several clinical laboratories are partnering with UNF to provide the required clinical laboratory training. UNF has initiated the NAACLS accreditation and the SACS substantive change processes.

The UNF MLS program will be a modified 3+1 program consisting of 126 credit hours. Biology majors who decide to select this concentration will apply to the UNF MLS program in the fall of their junior year. After acceptance into the MLS program, students will begin didactic

coursework in the spring and summer semesters. These courses will be taught by the UNF MLS Program Director and adjunct faculty currently working in the local hospitals. In their senior year of the program, students will complete their clinical experience at one of the UNF MLS clinical affiliates (e.g., Baptist Health, Mayo Clinic, and UF Shands Jacksonville). The clinical practicums will rotate students through many different areas of specialization. At the end of the program students will be eligible to sit for a national certification examination.

Given the University's desire to meet a community need in a timely manner, the program has initially been developed as a concentration within the Biology degree program. The Department of Biology within the College of Arts and Sciences will initiate the New Degree Program process with its submission of a Request to Plan on September 1, 2012.

### ***Limited Access Request***

The facilities, equipment, and personnel required to properly train these students are limited, and health care organizations with which we are affiliated can only accommodate a limited number of students at any given time. Listed below are the health care facilities that have made a commitment to train UNF MLS students and the number of students per year that they can accommodate.

<b>Clinical Affiliate</b>	<b>Student Spots</b>
Baptist Health Care	8
Mayo Clinic	6
Shands Jacksonville	6
St. Vincent's	2
Orange Park Medical Center	2
Department of Health State Lab	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

The total number of students that can be accommodated by area hospitals is 30 per year. Because this clinical experience is a requirement for licensure and completion of the program, we wish to limit access to the program to only those students that we are able to place in a clinical laboratory.

### ***Request to Exceed 120 semester hours***

In order to be in compliance with the NAACLS curriculum requirements, the upper division portion of the Medical Laboratory Science program is comprised of 65 semester hours of core didactic coursework and practicum (see attached program of study). UNF is requesting approval to exceed the 120 credit hour limit by 5 semester hours, bringing the total number of hours required for this specific concentration to 125 credits.

The following comparisons show that many of the currently accredited programs exceed 120 credit hours. Our request to increase the credits hours for the proposed concentration to 125 credit hours is in line with other programs.

**Total Number of      Highest Level of**

**University Programs in the State of Florida  
Required**

***Credits***

**Math**

University of West Florida	129	College Algebra
University of Central Florida	126	College Algebra
Florida Gulf Coast University	123	College Algebra

**National University Programs**

Michigan State University	136	Calculus
University of Arkansas	124	College Algebra
University of Auburn at Montgomery	140	Pre Calculus
Georgia Health Sciences University	125	College Algebra
Armstrong Atlantic University	123	College Algebra
Northern Illinois University	131	College Algebra
University of Illinois at Springfield	123	College Algebra
Eastern Kentucky University	128	College Algebra
University of Maryland	123	College Algebra
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	121	College Algebra

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

c: Ms. Shawn Brayton  
Dr. Jeff Coker  
Dr. Barbara Hetrick