



# Program Approval Form

For approval of new programs and deletions or modifications to an existing program.

### Action Requested:

- Create New (SCHEV approval required except for minors)
- Inactivate Existing
- Modify Existing (check all that apply)
  - Title (SCHEV approval required except for minors)
  - Concentration** (Choose one):  Add  Delete  Modify
  - Degree Requirements
  - Admission Standards/ Application Requirements
  - Other Changes: \_\_\_\_\_

### Type (Check one):

- B.A.  B.S.  Minor
- M.A.  M.S.  M.Ed.
- Ph.D.
- Undergraduate Certificate\*
- Graduate Certificate\*
- Other:

**College/School:** 
**Department:** 
  
**Submitted by:** 
**Ext:** 
**Email:**

**Effective Term:** Fall 
**Please note:** For students to be admitted to a new degree, minor, certificate or concentration, the program must be fully approved, entered into Banner, and published in the University Catalog.

### Justification: (attach separate document if necessary)

The Medical Technology community is moving to change its name from Medical Technologist to Medical Laboratory Scientist in order to better describe what a Medical Technologist actually does and to distinguish persons with a 4 year degree (Medical Laboratory Scientist) from those with only a 2 year degree (Medical Technician).

**Program Title: (Required)**  
Title must identify subject matter. Do not include name of college/school/dept.

**Concentration(s):**

**Admissions Standards / Application Requirements:**  
(Required only if different from those listed in the University Catalog)

**Degree Requirements:**  
Consult University Catalog for models, attach separate document if necessary using track changes for modifications

**Courses offered via distance:**  
(if applicable)

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:**

Existing	New/Modified
Medical Technology Course prefix: MTCH	Medical Laboratory Science Course prefix: MLAB
MTCH 200, 401-406 CHEM 314 and 318 (Organic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry lab)	<b>MLAB 200, 401-406</b> <b>BIOL 483 (Biochemistry) or CHEM 314 and 318 (Organic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry lab)</b>
120	120

\*For Certificates Only: Indicate whether students are able to pursue on a  Full-time basis  Part-time basis

### Approval Signatures

Larry Rockwood	10/16/2013		
Department	Date	College/School	Date
Provost's Office		Date	
Interdisciplinary Council Use Only			

If this program may impact another unit or is in collaboration with another unit at Mason, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date

### For Graduate Programs Only

Graduate Council Member	Provost Office	Graduate Council Approval Date

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## Rationale for Change of Program Name

The Biology Undergraduate Program proposes changing the name of its degree from “Medical Technology, BS” to “Medical Laboratory Science, BS.”

The Medical Technology community is moving to change its name from Medical Technologist (MT) to Medical Laboratory Scientists (MLS) in order to better describe what a Medical Technologist actually does and to distinguish persons with a 4 year degree from those with only a 2 year degree (Medical Technicians). George Mason University’s BS, in Medical Technology consists of a 3 + 1 program where students take lecture and lab based classes at GMU for the first 3 years. Their final year is completed at one of our 5 affiliated schools. All of our affiliated schools have changed their program names from either Medical Technology or Clinical Laboratory Sciences to Medical Laboratory Science. In addition, upon graduating with a BS in Medical Technology students are able to sit for the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) certification exam. If they are able to pass the exam they will then become a certified MLS, not MT. It is important to note that a person who wants to become a certified MLS must complete one year clinical rotation (which GMU requires) in order to sit for the exam. In addition prospective employers will not hire someone who has not passed the exam as an MLS. To keep our program in line with the industry that will be employing our students we are suggesting this name change.

The program is not being changed as part of this name change. It will continue to consist of a fixed set of required core courses.

The proposed name change should incur no new expenses to the School or the Program beyond those associated with updating of associated web and printed material.

The proposed change in program name reflects the true nature of what students will be learning and correlates to what is happening in industry.

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## **Justification for the Title Change of the BS in Medical Technology to BS in Medical Laboratory Sciences**

George Mason University requests approval for a title change for the BS in Medical Technology. We would like to change the title to BS in Medical Laboratory Science. The purpose of the change is to better reflect the academic focus of the department and to enhance our ability to attract new students. No changes have been made to the curriculum, and no additional resources will be required to administer the program. Therefore, we request that this proposal be considered a simple name change.

Current trends are showing that the title, "Medical Technology," is becoming increasingly less utilized within the field. We believe that the title, "Medical Laboratory Science," is a more relevant description of the academic program. While there are a handful of undergraduate programs called medical technology, they are becoming increasingly rare. Most undergraduate programs that offer a similar course are now going by medical laboratory science. In fact, an examination of Internet search engines for finding colleges and universities by undergraduate degree shows that universities that use the name Medical Technology are for profit with very few exceptions. In addition schools that we would consider our peers like Wake Forest, University of Vermont, and our affiliated university George Washington University all have changed their program name to Medical Laboratory Science. Thus, the new name improves the ability of GMU to attract undergraduates. In addition the Medical Technology community is moving to change its name from Medical Technologist (MT) to Medical Laboratory Scientists (MLS) in order to better describe what a Medical Technologist actually does and to distinguish persons with a 4 year degree for those with only a 2 year degree (Medical Technicians). George Mason University's BS in Medical Technology consists of a 3 + 1 program where students take lecture and lab based classes at GMU for the first 3 years. Their final year is completed at one of our 5 affiliated schools. All of our affiliated schools have changed their program names from either Medical Technology or Clinical Laboratory Sciences to Medical Laboratory Science. In addition upon graduating with a BS in Medical Technology students are able to sit for the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) certification exam. If they are able to pass the exam they will then become a certified MLS, not MT. It is important to note that a person who wants to become a certified MLS must complete one year clinical rotation (which GMU requires) in order to sit for the exam. In addition prospective employers will not hire someone who has not passed the exam as an MLS. To keep our program in line with the industry that will be employing our students we are suggesting this name change.

Changing the name of the program requires no additional resources other than the modest sum necessary for marketing and publications. These tasks can be accomplished through the reallocation of existing resources.