

Proposal for the Creation of a Molecular Diagnostics Certificate Program

Degree: Undergraduate Certificate

Title: **Molecular Diagnostics Certificate Program**

Sponsors: Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences
College of Health Sciences

Responsible Administrative Unit:
Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences

Program Description:

The proposed Molecular Diagnostics Certificate Program (MDCP) is a hybrid program, utilizing both online lectures with an on-campus laboratory practicum experience in the area of Molecular Diagnostics. This undergraduate level program is designed for and will be offered to the experienced Medical Laboratory Scientist. These are individuals currently employed in the clinical laboratory but have not received undergraduate education in the areas of Molecular Diagnostics, Genetics and Molecular techniques. This program is similar to others currently offered in the nation which have been attended by several of our alumni. Michigan State and several other higher-education institutions offer similar programs, with the Virginia Commonwealth University being the only program available in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

(<http://bld.natsci.msu.edu/online-education/molecular-laboratory-diagnostics/>)

Program Rationale:

The rationale for this certificate program was in response to alumni of the University of Delaware, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences requests, as well as from other local practicing Medical Laboratory Scientists. Currently, 85% of all newly integrated testing in the clinical laboratory is based upon molecular principles and theories. The typical laboratory scientist, unless receiving a B.S. in the last 5-8 years, will not have been educated in the areas of molecular diagnostics; this lack of knowledge is limiting to career progression. Completion of this program will allow students to acquire basic molecular diagnostics theory and laboratory skills while also allowing them to potentially take a national certification examination in the topic of molecular biology offered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (MB(ASCP) <http://www.ascp.org/>), the agency which provides the national Clinical Laboratory Board of Certification Examination.

Students wishing to apply to the Molecular Diagnostics Certificate Program must meet the following criteria:

- An individual that already has obtained a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- A completed on-line application for MDCP study at Delaware.
- Transcripts from all previous undergraduate programs.

Program logistics.

At this time the program will be based in the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences. Additionally, we will be assisted by Elizabeth M. Hagovsky, Program Manager at the Division of Professional & Continuing Studies whom we have met with to discuss this program and the services P & CS can provide.