



26 January 2015

To the Curriculum Committee:

Last year, the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences proposed a course, MLS 3312 Advanced Clinical Immunology that the Department of Microbiology felt overlapped heavily with the content of courses offered in our department. Over the past year, representatives from our department (Craig Oberg) and the MLS (Scott Wright) met and worked out a compromise that appears to satisfy both departments.

MLS clarified their course's description, title, and syllabus to define the purpose of MLS 3312 as "to prepare students for the clinical immunology portion of the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board Certification examination." They also modified the title to Clinical Laboratory Immunology and Virology, which indicates the clinical emphasis of the course. This is quite different from our immunology course offerings (MICR 3254 Immunology and MICR 3203, Immunology in Health and Disease), which emphasize the cell biology and chemistry of immunologic reactions. We feel that these courses fulfill different needs for students in their respective programs.

They will, thus, be dropping the requirement for MICR 3254 or MICR 3203 from their Track I for laboratory professional track. This appears to be in the best interests of their students and, as a department, we do not oppose this change. In addition, they are keeping MICR 3254 as required for their Track II (pre-professional) students. We agree that this is an important course for pre-medical students preparing to take the medical school admissions exam (MCAT).

Thank you,

Michele D. Culumber, Ph.D.
Department of Microbiology
Chair