

Suggested Edits

2024 Standards

VI. Administrative: Maintaining Accreditation

Program/Sponsoring Institution Responsibilities

Programs are required to comply with administrative requirements for maintaining accreditation including:

- A. Submitting required documentation to NAACLS by the established deadline. These include but are not limited to self-study reports, applications for continuing accreditation and required Progress Reports, Interim Report and Action Plans.
- B. Paying accreditation fees, as determined by NAACLS, by the due date.

Proposed Changes

VI. Administrative: Maintaining Accreditation

Program/Sponsoring Institution Responsibilities

Programs are required to comply with administrative requirements for maintaining accreditation including:

- A. Submitting required documentation to NAACLS by the established deadline. These include but are not limited to self-study reports, applications for continuing accreditation and required Progress Reports, Interim Report and Action Plans.
- B. **Paying all fees assessed by NAACLS by the specified due date. Fees include, but are not limited to, accreditation fees, workshop fees, program official approval fees and site visit fees.**

Rationale

Currently the standard specifically enforces payment of accreditation fees. Updating the verbiage to encompass all fees assessed by NAACLS would remove subjectivity and be enforceable in all past-due communication.

Suggested Edits

2024 Standards

VII. PBT Program Administration

A. Program Director

The program must have a NAACLS approved medical laboratory professional serving as program director who meets the following qualifications and executes all required responsibilities.

1. Qualifications

The program director must have:

- a. A bachelor's degree or higher.
- b. An ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist, medical laboratory technician, ~~or holds certification in phlebotomy from an applicable recognized certification agency.~~
- c. One year of teaching experience.
- d. Knowledge of educational methods and administration as well as current accreditation and certification procedures.
- e. (for international programs only) If the program director does not hold ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist, medical laboratory technician, ~~or holds certification in phlebotomy from an applicable recognized certification agency,~~ a qualified professional who does hold ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist, medical laboratory technician, ~~or holds certification in phlebotomy from an applicable recognized certification agency~~ must hold appointment as an accreditation liaison.

E. Accreditation Liaison (when required, for international programs only)

1. Qualifications

The accreditation liaison, when required, must be a medical laboratory professional who:

- a. Has knowledge of NAACLS accreditation.
- b. Has at least a master's degree and three years of experience in the program discipline.
- c. Holds ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist, medical laboratory

Proposed changes

VII. PBT Program Administration

B. Program Director

The program must have a NAACLS approved medical laboratory professional serving as program director who meets the following qualifications and executes all required responsibilities.

1. Qualifications

The program director must have:

- a. A bachelor's degree or higher.
- b. An ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist, medical laboratory technician, **or phlebotomy technician.**
- c. One year of teaching experience.
- d. Knowledge of educational methods and administration as well as current accreditation and certification procedures.
- e. (for international programs only) If the program director does not hold ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist, medical laboratory technician, **or phlebotomy technician,** a qualified professional who does hold ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist, medical laboratory technician, **or phlebotomy technician** must hold appointment as an accreditation liaison.

E. Accreditation Liaison (when required, for international programs only)

1. Qualifications

The accreditation liaison, when required, must be a medical laboratory professional who:

- a. Has knowledge of NAACLS accreditation.
- b. Has at least a master's degree and three years of experience in the program discipline.

technician, ~~or holds certification in phlebotomy from an applicable recognized certification agency.~~

c. Holds ASCP BOC or ASCP^I BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist, medical laboratory technician, ~~or phlebotomy technician.~~

Rationale

Staff identified a discrepancy between the 2012 and 2024 SCGs related to the Program Director certification requirement for Phlebotomy programs. The 2012 SCG includes an option of an “applicable recognized certification agency,” directing the reader to the 2012 Standards Compliance Guide for more information. The 2012 Compliance guide did not include any additional certification agencies as acceptable for Compliance.

Backstory:

- The 2012 Standards Task Force was comprised of content experts from each discipline.
- The person identified for Phlebotomy was not active.
- The 2012 STF left an option for PARC and the board to adjust in the future (“other applicable agency”).
- PARC never recommended another agency to be accepted.
- Clarified this in the 2012 Standard Compliance Guide.

The language referencing the SCG was accidentally removed from the 2024 Standards. As currently written, the 2024 Standards could be interpreted to allow any credential to qualify an individual as a Program Director.

All disciplines included the 2024 and DCLS Standards (example included below)

Current Standards

VII. Program Administration

A. Program Director

The program must have a NAACLS approved medical laboratory professional serving as program director who meets the following qualifications and executes all required responsibilities.

1. Qualifications

The program director must have:

- a. An earned master's or doctoral degree.
- b. An ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC generalist certification as a medical laboratory scientist.
- c. Three years of teaching experience.
- d. Knowledge of education methods and administration as well as current NAACLS accreditation procedures and certification procedures.
- e. (for international programs only) If the program director does not hold ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist, a qualified professional who does hold ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist must hold appointment as an accreditation liaison.

B. Site Program Administrator (required for programs with sponsors and partners; assigned to each participating site)

1. Qualifications

The site program administrator must:

- a. Have a bachelor's degree.
- b. Hold the same level certification required of a program director.
- c. Have at least one year of experience in medical laboratory science education to include knowledge of:
 - i. education methods
 - ii. program assessment and administration
 - iii. certification/licensure procedures

Proposed

VII. Program Administration

A. Program Director

The program must have a NAACLS approved medical laboratory professional serving as program director who meets the following qualifications and executes all required responsibilities.

1. Qualifications

The program director must have:

- a. An earned master's or doctoral degree.
- b. An ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC generalist **credential** as a medical laboratory scientist.
- c. Three years of teaching experience.
- d. Knowledge of education methods and administration as well as current NAACLS accreditation procedures and certification procedures.
- e. (for international programs only) If the program director does not hold ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC **credential** as a medical laboratory scientist, a qualified professional who does hold ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC **credential** as a medical laboratory scientist must hold appointment as an accreditation liaison.

B. Site Program Administrator (required for programs with sponsors and partners; assigned to each participating site)

1. Qualifications

The site program administrator must:

- a. Have a bachelor's degree.
- b. Hold the same level **credential** required of a program director.
- c. Have at least one year of experience in medical laboratory science education to include knowledge of:
 - i. education methods
 - ii. program assessment and administration
 - iii. certification/licensure procedures

E. Accreditation Liaison (when required, for international programs only)

1. Qualifications

The accreditation liaison, when required, must be a medical laboratory professional who:

- a. Has knowledge of NAACLS accreditation.
- b. Has at least a master's degree and three years of experience in the program discipline.
- c. Holds ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist.

F. Education Coordinator (when required)

1. Qualifications

The education coordinator, when required, must be a medical laboratory professional who:

- a. Has at least a bachelor's degree and three years of experience in the program discipline.
- b. Holds ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC certification as a histotechnologist.
- c. Has knowledge of NAACLS accreditation and current certification procedures.

E. Accreditation Liaison (when required, for international programs only)

1. Qualifications

The accreditation liaison, when required, must be a medical laboratory professional who:

- a. Has knowledge of NAACLS accreditation.
- b. Has at least a master's degree and three years of experience in the program discipline.
- c. Holds ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC **credential** as a medical laboratory scientist.

F. Education Coordinator (when required)

1. Qualifications

The education coordinator, when required, must be a medical laboratory professional who:

- a. Has at least a bachelor's degree and three years of experience in the program discipline.
- b. Holds ASCP BOC or ASCPⁱ BOC **credential** as a histotechnologist.
- c. Has knowledge of NAACLS accreditation and current certification procedures

Rationale

The purpose of this request is to clarify the distinction between professional credentialing and the certification examination process referenced in the NAACLS Standards. Clarifying this terminology will improve consistency and accuracy by distinguishing between the certification examination process and the professional credential awarded upon successful completion of that examination. Individuals who passed the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) examination prior to implementation of the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) may voluntarily participate in the ASCP BOC Credential Maintenance Program (CMP), and their digital credential does not include an expiration date. Individuals who passed the BOC examination after the CMP was implemented are required to participate in the CMP to maintain an active credential and demonstrate that their certification remains current. If the Board approves this Standard change following the Public Comment period, the Standards Compliance Guide (SCG) will be updated to include a clarifying statement regarding this exemption.

Adding a faculty appointment to accreditation liaison requirements (all disciplines)

Current Standards

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- a. Has knowledge of NAACLS accreditation.
- b. Has at least a master's degree and three years of experience in the program discipline.
- c. Holds ASCP BOC or ASCPi BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist.

2. Responsibilities

The accreditation liaison, when required, must:

- a. Provide guidance and assistance in NAACLS accreditation requirements, policies and procedures.
- b. Provide input into the curriculum and continuous program assessment and improvement.
- c. Have regular contact with the program director, faculty and program personnel.

Proposed

E. Accreditation Liaison (when required, for international programs only)

1. Qualifications

The accreditation liaison, when required, must be a medical laboratory professional who:

- a. Has knowledge of NAACLS accreditation.
- b. Has at least a master's degree and three years of experience in the program discipline.
- c. Holds ASCP BOC or ASCPi BOC certification as a medical laboratory scientist.

2. Responsibilities

The accreditation liaison, when required, must:

- a. Provide guidance and assistance in NAACLS accreditation requirements, policies and procedures.
- b. Provide input into the curriculum and continuous program assessment, improvement **and accreditation review of material and processes.**
- c. Have regular contact with the program director, faculty and program personnel.

3. Appointments

The accreditation liaison must have a faculty or clinical appointment at the sponsoring institution.

Rationale

To increase the likelihood of the accreditation liaison being included on related communication. The standard language is based on similar language in the program director standard.