Welcome to the Academic Year

The Medical Laboratory Science Division would like to welcome all students to the Fall Semester and the new academic year. Our Fall 2020 laboratory science community is diverse and consists of approximately 266 pre-MLS students, 32 first year MLS students, 5 returning part-time year 2 MLS students, 2 micro categorical students, 32 second year MLS students, and 23 Master of Science students. We’re excited to have you all here!

Given the current condition of the COVID-19 Pandemic, some courses are being delivered a little differently this year. The semester begins August 24th with some classes being held face-to-face, others online in a remote format, or a hybridization that pairs face-to-face with online learning – be sure to check your syllabi to be made aware of the curriculum delivery for each of your courses. We are dedicated to providing an excellent academic experience while protecting our community of students, staff, and faculty to the best of our abilities.

For everyone’s safety, the physical distancing protocols put into place include: restricted traffic patterns in hallways, and wearing face coverings in common indoor areas such as classrooms, laboratories, and even outside when 6-foot distance cannot be maintained. For those who do not have a face covering, the state will provide one to you. Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available in every laboratory and classroom for hand and surface disinfection.

We also want to make you aware that fall break has been cancelled (originally scheduled October 4-11), and any on campus instruction will conclude when students leave for Thanksgiving Break (November 26). The remainder of the semester will be delivered online (November 30 – December 3), with final exams held online December 7-11.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate this upcoming year. We are fortunate that our division is made up of dynamic and resilient individuals that care a great deal about the safety and experience of students. We are going to give you the best year we can and are excited to start the semester with you!

Meet Our Faculty

- Takara Blamires, MS, MLS(ASCP)CM: Assistant Professor and Program Director of the Medical Laboratory Science Undergraduate Program
- Karen A. Brown, MS, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)CM: Adjunct Professor
- Rebecca Buxton, MS, MT(ASCP): Adjunct Professor
- Sheri Hohmann, MS, MLSI(ASCP)CM: Assistant Professor
- Mallory Leetham, MS, MLSI(ASCP)CM: Assistant Professor and Clinical Coordinator
- Lacy Moss, PhD, MLS(ASCP)CM: Assistant Professor
- Omar Munoz, MS, MLSI(ASCP)CM SH: Assistant Professor
- Lacey Murphy, MS, MLSI(ASCP)CM: Instructor
- Kristina Pierce, MS, MLSI(ASCP)CM: Instructor
- Diana Wilkins, PhD, MS, MT(ASCP): Professor and Division Chief of Medical Laboratory Science

Meet Our Staff

- Victoria Buchanan, BS: Administrative Program Assistant
- Lauren Bustamante, BS: Academic Advisor
- Adriana Soto Callahan, MBA: Recruitment and Retention Specialist
- Kara Ebisuaya, BS, BB(ASCP): Medical Technologist
- Jennifer Johnson: Administrative Manager
- Melanie Ponce, MT(ASCP): Medical Technologist
Congratulations on these praiseworthy accomplishments! Leetham is the key to our success. I am continually grateful for her friendship and mentorship. – Mallory

Takara's attention to detail, hard work, and dedication to our Medical Laboratory Science program students and friends alike feel like everything is going to be okay, even in the most stressful of times. "Takara is a thoughtful educator, colleague, and friend. Her kindness and calm demeanor make Nominating Committee, and other core committees on the priorities of its members.

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Congratulations on these praiseworthy accomplishments!

**Featured Faculty - Takara Blamires**

We are thrilled to announce that our very own Medical Laboratory Science Program Director, Takara Blamires, has been selected for the American Society for Clinical Pathology’s (ASCP’s) 40 Under Forty Honor which recognizes young laboratory professionals for their achievements and leadership, who are making an impact in the field of pathology and laboratory medicine.

Takara Blamires, MS, MLS(ASCP)CM, grew up in Ogden, Utah, where she completed an associate’s degree and a bachelor’s degree in clinical laboratory science at Weber State University. She completed a master’s degree in laboratory medicine and biomedical science at The University of Utah. She has now been with the University of Utah’s Medical Laboratory Science Program for over seven years, serving as an assistant professor, the associate program director, and now program director.

Takara was also appointed to the AACC’s Society for Young Clinical Laboratorians Core Committee for a 3-year term. The purpose of SYCL is to ensure that AACC has comprehensive and coordinated programs that help develop and meet the needs of the next generation of leaders in laboratory medicine. Specifically, the committee has the charge to: Develop, implement, and contribute to comprehensive and coordinated programs that focus on the needs and professional development of young clinical laboratorians; and to provide input to the Board, Nominating Committee, and other core committees on the priorities of its members.

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**ASCP Laboratory Student Award**

We are also proud to announce that the ASCP Council of Laboratory Professionals has selected University of Utah MLS alumni, Alicia Linford and Chloe Lim, as two of the Top Ten ASCP Laboratory Student Award winners. On behalf of the Medical Laboratory Division, congratulations on this well deserved award!

**Graduation/ Program Completion Advising**

For students approaching graduation and program completion, be sure to schedule your mandatory advising appointment with Professor Blamires. It is recommended that you schedule a meeting after you have registered for your final semester to carefully evaluate your Degree Audit Report for graduation and program completion. During this meeting you can apply for graduation and discuss commencement (as applicable), as well as the process of applying and preparing for the ASCP BOC examination.

If your graduation/program completion term is in the fall (December) you must complete your advising appointment before August 26th. Graduation application is due September 4th.

May every young scientist remember... and not fail to keep his eyes open for the possibility that an irritating failure of his apparatus to give consistent results may once or twice in a lifetime conceal and important discovery. - Patrick M.S. Blackett