

GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

DRAFT

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY EMPHASIS AT GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE AND THE  
HEALTH PROFESSIONS MASTER PLAN

A Medical Technology emphasis would be a valuable addition to the curriculum at Glassboro State College. Such a program is consistent with the 1973 "Health Professions Education Master Plan" written by the New Jersey Department of Higher Education. Pertinent points supporting this position are:

1. Recommendation #1, page XXVI recommends disapproval of additional programs in medical technology at this time. This recommendation is based on projections of new medical technologists educated in the state, positions available, and attrition of medical technologists in the state's labor force. Although the projections indicate that there may be an over supply if new programs are approved, both the accuracy of the data and the validity of projections of personnel needs are questioned (pages 84-88, 227). Further regional data are not available for medical technologists (page 227).

On page 231, the following views are expressed:

"The New Jersey Society for Medical Technology feels very strongly that the quality of laboratory testing is a direct result of the individual performing the test. We believe that not only do we have too many people working in laboratories who are not qualified but also that our qualified people are not performing at the highest level at which they should be. For example, a fully trained Medical Technologist should be utilized in a supervisory position and not so much at the routine bench. The MLTs (Medical Laboratory Technician) are Associate of Arts degree people who have been specifically trained for two years for routine laboratory bench work. There is an ever-increasing number of these students graduating each year from our community colleges.

Therefore, we believe the need lies in:

1. Educating people who are presently not qualified.
2. Programs established in existing facilities to upgrade the Medical Technologist (management quality control, etc.) Supervisor.
3. Programs and funds established to give the MLTs and CLAs (Certified Laboratory Assistants) the opportunity to advance in their education - the career ladder concept."

2. Recommendations #2 and #3, page XXVI, stress the need for quality programs and programs for continuing education in medical technology. Our proposed emphasis is consistent with these recommendations.

3. Part of the reason that an over supply of medical technologists is projected is that both medical technicians and medical technologists can do routine jobs in the hospital laboratory. However, it is stressed (page 231) that only the better-trained medical technologists can move into the supervisory positions. Recommendation 2 (page 231) emphasizes that education of both medical technologists and technicians should be continually evaluated so that the training can be upgraded. It is to our advantage that we are proposing an

emphasis for medical technologists rather than for medical technicians, and are also planning to affiliate with a hospital with a quality training program.

4. Technology programs can be approved in those areas of the state where there is a regional demand (page 230).

" While the projections indicate a surplus of medical technologists on a statewide basis, there may well be now and continue to be in the future, a shortage of medical technologists on a regional basis."

For administration of health education, the state is divided into four regions and we are in Area Four (comprised of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties). There is only one college (Rutgers University, Camden) with the fewest programs (Appendix F, page F-22). Since Area Four is geographically large and with a substantial population and numerous hospitals, a clear regional need exists for additional Medical Technology programs.

5. There are recommendations that consortial arrangements between institutions are to be encouraged and that existing physical facilities be fully utilized (Recommendation #3, page XV; #6 pages 56-57; #4, page 70, and page 43. On page 48, the following paragraph appears:

"1. Student Opportunity: Every citizen of New Jersey should have 'the opportunity to be educated to the height of his potential' and not find it 'foreclosed because the individual lacks... financial resources.' This philosophy is at the heart of the New Jersey system of higher education. As it applies to the health professions, it means that programs must be available within commuting distance both for those who lack the means to live away from home and for those currently active in a health profession and seeking to upgrade their skills while employed."

The purpose of these recommendations is to limit the expenses of establishing duplicate facilities or new programs. No expense would be entailed in providing a Medical Technology emphasis at Glassboro State College.

6. It is recommended (Recommendation #8, pages XIV and 59-60) that medical programs be established in clusters (that is, various related training programs be operated by a hospital or college) to maximize interaction among the students and to minimize expenses such as establishing specialized libraries. Cooper Hospital has a variety of training programs and therefore this criterion would be met.