Guidelines for medical laboratory assistant programs in applying the CMA Requirements for accreditation (criterion 3.1)  

April 2014

The purpose of these guidelines is to interpret how specific accreditation criteria will be applied in the accreditation of medical laboratory assistant (MLA) programs.

Qualifications of supervisors of medical laboratory assistant students

The 2014 Requirements for accreditation state “The program has personnel with the relevant professional certification/registration or academic qualification to fulfill their role in supporting student learning and attainment of the required competencies.” (criterion 3.1).

In general, the accreditation expectation is that personnel who supervise and evaluate students in the clinical setting will be certified and/or registered in their profession/specialty. However, in the case of MLAs, it is recognized the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) certification examination for MLAs has been in place only since 2003. Therefore, it is acknowledged that not all MLAs who may be available to supervise MLA students in the clinical setting will be CSMLS certified.

As an interim measure until CSMLS certified MLAs become more widely available for student supervision, the accreditation process will consider MLAs deemed competent by their employer as acceptable supervisors/preceptors of MLA students in the clinical setting. *

These guidelines were previously effective from 2010-2015. This set timeline is now removed. The guidelines will continue to be in effect until further notice.

For more information
Contact CMA Accreditation at accreditation@cma.ca or visit cma.ca/accredit.

* Interpretation supported by CSMLS Council on National Certification, February 2010