

4-17-1989

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Recommended Citation

"UD and Area Hospitals Cooperate to Transfer Accreditation of Medical Technology to UD" (1989). *News Releases*. 5276.
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The University of Dayton

News Release

UD AND AREA HOSPITALS COOPERATE TO TRANSFER ACCREDITATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY TO UD

DAYTON, Ohio, April 17, 1989--The University of Dayton and three area hospitals are cooperating in a plan to transfer the accreditation of Kettering Medical Center's School of Medical Technology to UD.

Under the plan, Kettering, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center and Good Samaritan Medical Center will be used as sites for clinical experience for the program, which will be based at the University of Dayton beginning in the fall.

The transfer reflects a national shift in the education of medical technologists, or clinical laboratory scientists. Many hospital-based programs have closed because of cost-effectiveness and the growing reluctance of the federal government to allow teaching hospitals to pass educational expenses on to patients, according to Suzanne Columbus, the current program director of the School of Medical Technology at Kettering Medical Center.

However, the nation's hospital laboratories are facing a critical shortage of medical technologists--a shortage documented by both the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and the American Society for Medical Technologists.

"Last week, in Cincinnati alone, 44 positions in hospitals were unfilled, even with all this spring's medical technology graduates of Cincinnati schools already assured of jobs," said Columbus, who will chair the new UD department.

In the past, graduates of UD's bachelor of science in medical technology program spent their first three years on campus and their senior year at one of the area hospitals offering a clinical program. The new program's revised

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curriculum, which integrates professional courses with general education classes, gives students an earlier exposure to the profession of medical technology. The specific medical technology lecture and lab courses, such as medical microbiology and clinical chemistry, are integrated into the junior and senior years. The summer after the junior year and the second semester of the senior year are reserved for clinical practicums at the affiliated hospitals.

"The degree is basically a biology major with a strong chemistry minor," said Charles Chantell, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Consequently, in addition to working in a hospital laboratory, graduates have job options similar to those for graduates with a B.S. in biology or a B.A. in chemistry. Medical technology graduates also go on to medical and graduate schools. Individual medical technology courses may also appeal to students majoring in other sciences who have an interest in biology or chemistry with a clinical emphasis.

The University plans to admit 16 to 20 students per year to the program. According to a report from Sharon Zablony, a consultant from Michigan State University, UD's decision to assume Kettering Medical Center's accreditation gives the University "an opportunity to implement a model curriculum from a nationally recognized program."

For more information, contact Suzanne Columbus at 298-4331, ext. 5682.