

**Agenda Item Details**

Meeting	Sep 14, 2022 - Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Category	15. ACTION ITEMS
Subject	15.08 Resolution 22-09 - Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Histotechnology
Type	Action

Prepared by: Kelly Fowler

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill 927, authored by Assemblymember Jose Medina, allows community colleges to develop baccalaureate degrees that address regional needs and lead directly to employment opportunities. The degrees would be affordable, half the price of a California State University degree at around \$10,000 over four years, and significantly less than comparable programs at for-profit institutions. Additionally, by allowing students to earn a baccalaureate degree, graduates would make more and have a greater chance to advance in their chosen profession.

ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT

Now that the baccalaureate degree has been awarded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Board-approved resolution will be forwarded to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges with our request for a Substantive Change.

The Histotechnology Baccalaureate Degree will have minimal fiscal impact on the College since the existing infrastructure will support the offering of this degree program.

Funding Source

Unrestricted General Fund.

[ATTACHMENT-Resolution No 22-09 - Approval to Approve a Bachelor of Science in Histotechnology.pdf \(79 KB\)](#)

Minutes are not yet available. Please reference video of motion and approval at 6:44

Motion by Peter Hidalgo, second by Student Trustee Juan Mendoza

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Judy Chen Haggerty, Laura Santos, Manuel Baca, Robert Hidalgo, Gary Chow, Peter Hidalgo

RESOLUTION NO. 22-09
MT. SAN ANTONIO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
APPROVAL OF A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HISTOTECHNOLOGY

The following resolution is adopted by the Governing Board of the Mt. San Antonio Community College District:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Mt. SAC Community College District affirms that workforce education is one of the most important missions of California's community colleges; and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes that a growing number of workforce fields and employers now require a bachelor's degree in their job qualifications; and

WHEREAS, California's public universities either do not offer or lack the capacity for providing adequate baccalaureate instruction in these high-demand workforce fields; and

WHEREAS, students who need programs that are not provided in California's public universities in these workforce fields are compelled to leave the state in order to obtain their degrees or to enroll in high-cost nonprofit institutions, or in expensive for-profit institutions that have questionable success rates and result in significant student debt; and

WHEREAS, AB 927 has been implemented as successor legislation to SB 850 and SB 1406 that proposes to make the existing baccalaureate pilot programs permanent, and expand the opportunity of offering baccalaureate programs to all community colleges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Mt. SAC Community College District supports Assembly Bill 927, which would make permanent and expand the state's baccalaureate pilot program, thereby supporting continued student recruitment and participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the President/CEO to provide the Board's resolution to members of the legislature, statewide, community and business organizations and leaders, and others who can assist in implementing this important expansion of opportunity for students in California higher education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the Baccalaureate Degree in Histotechnology once the substantive change for this baccalaureate degree has been approved by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the members of the Governing Board of the Mt. San Antonio Community College District on the 14th day of September 2022 by a vote of:

AYES, and in favor of, Board Members:

ABSTAIN, Board Member:

NOES, Board Members:

ABSENT, Board Members:

I, William T. Scroggins, Clerk/Secretary of the Governing Board of the Mt. San Antonio Community College District, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board at a regularly called and conducted meeting held on said date.

William T. Scroggins
College President/CEO and
Secretary, Governing Board



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Sep 14, 2022 - Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Category	8. REPORTS
Subject	8.14 Informational Report - Baccalaureate Degree
Type	Information

Baccalaureate Degree Report Kelly Fowler, Jennifer MacDonald, Dr. Carmen Rexach, and John Vitullo September 14, 2022

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Occupational Outlook Handbook projects 11% job growth among clinical laboratory technician and technologist occupations between 2020 and 2030. This accounts for 36,500 additional job openings nationwide for clinical laboratory technologists and technicians, not including vacancies due to retirements or resignations. This growth rate is faster than the average projected growth rate among all occupations. The BLS also indicates that the aging population is expected to lead to a greater need to diagnose medical conditions through laboratory procedures. Furthermore, the American Society for Clinical Pathology's latest vacancy survey (2018) revealed vacancies in the field were at their highest levels since the organization began the survey. The increased demand and growing vacancies emphasize the importance of recruiting highly qualified histotechnologists, an occupation that requires a baccalaureate degree.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Mt. SAC is located in eastern Los Angeles County, where San Bernardino, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties converge. Commuter students from these counties, as well as nearby Riverside County, enroll at Mt. SAC. In addition, graduates of the Histotechnology program are employed by hospitals and medical facilities in these counties. Histotechnology is a specialized field within the broader realm of laboratory sciences. There is a projected need for clinical laboratory technologists and technicians in these counties, as well as California as a whole, in the coming years. In this region, the demand for these occupations is projected to grow by 17.8% by 2028 (based on 2018 benchmark data), an increase of 2,280 positions, with the highest growth in Orange County. In fact, the Mt. SAC region will account for 41% of the projected statewide growth in this occupational area.

Mt. SAC offers the only Histotechnology Associate of Science Degree Program in the state. Merritt College, in Oakland, offers only a histotechnician certificate of achievement program. These are the only two programs among California's community colleges that have received accreditation by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. While the program at Mt. SAC is in high demand, graduates are significantly limited in their options for career advancement in the histotechnology profession. Only a handful of baccalaureate programs in histotechnology exist in the entire United States, none of which are located in California or even west of Texas. The four universities that offer a bachelor's degree in Histotechnology are Barry University (Florida), University of Mississippi Medical Center, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and West Virginia University. (See <https://www.naacls.org/Find-a-Program.aspx> for a searchable database of accredited Histotechnology programs.)

A report by the Public Policy Institute of California projects that by 2030, 38% of jobs in California will require at least a bachelor's degree, but only 32% of workers will have those degrees. The bachelor of science (BS) degree at Mt. San Antonio College will increase access to students with the smooth transition from an associate of science degree to a BS degree while also improving completion rates and time to degree, particularly with low-income, Latino, and African American students. (See <https://www.ppic.org/press-release/state-faces-shortfall-of-1-1-million-college-graduates-in-2030/>) Mt. SAC is a Hispanic Serving Institution with 61.78% of the 2020-21 credit students identifying as Hispanic/Latino. A baccalaureate degree program at Mt. SAC would help to address the demand to fill the projected 25,200 job openings for clinical laboratory technologists/technicians throughout the state in the coming decade.

[ATTACHMENT-Histotechnology Bacalaureate Degree Presentation.pdf \(1,334 KB\)](#)



Mt. SAC BS Degree in Histotechnology



History of AS Degree



- Mt. SAC Histotechnician Program began in 2001
- Faculty and administrator visited local histotechnology facilities
- Received seed funding through NSF Grant
- Mt. SAC hired Jennifer MacDonald as Histotechnology Program Director



AS Degree Outcomes: A Resounding Success!

- Largest Histotechnology Program of its kind in the United States (student enrollment and facilities)
- Cumulative pass rate on the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Histotechnology Exam is over 92%
- Student and employer demand (many graduates are hired prior to graduation)
- 100 % placement rate to facilities such as:
USC Keck, UCLA Medical Center, City of Hope National Medical Center, Cedars Sinai, Children's Hospital LA, Children's Hospital OC, UC Irvine Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, Quest Diagnostics, Lab Corp, Tibor Rubin Veterans Affairs, Long Beach Medical Center



Industry Partners / Advisory Committee

Abel, Kay, HT (ASCP) - Orange Coast Memorial

Lydia Figueroa, BS, HT/HTL (ASCP) – Sakura Finetek

Susi Gadberry, BS, HTL (ASCP) - UCI Medical Center

Ricardo Lopez, HT (ASCP) - Chino Valley Hospital

Patricia Neder-Eckman, MBA, HT (ASCP) – Kaiser Permanente

David Muirhead, AIBMS, AIMLS, MSA – City of Hope

Joanne Olivas, HT (ASCP) - UCLA Medical Center


Saeedeh Shapourifar-Tehrani, MPH, HTL (ASCP) - UCLA Medical Center

Cynthia Pasqual, HT (ASCP)- USC Keck School of Medicine

Graham Velasco, HTL (ASCP) - VA Medical Center

Renee Zaragoza, HT (ASCP) - VA Medical Center

Dewey Keel, DLM, MS, MT (ASCP) – San Antonio Hospital




Histotechnology Baccalaureate Programs

Only 5 institutions nation-wide
offer Histotechnology
baccalaureate degrees:

- Barry University
- Miami Dade College
- University of Mississippi
- University of Texas, MD Anderson
- West Virginia University





Community College Baccalaureate Program: A History



SB850 (2014)


- Established California Community College Pilot Program
- 15 programs were accepted with promise of future opportunities to apply
- New applications postponed to 2027

SB874 (Jan 20, 2020)

- Established to make pilot programs permanent
- Accepting 15 new programs per year
- Did not pass

AB927 (2021)

- Allowed applicants to submit twice a year
- Accepting up to 15 programs from each pool



Histotechnology Baccalaureate Benefits to Mt. SAC



- Pathway for students with AS degree in Histotechnology (Bridge Course)
- Collaboration with local institutions
- Support from local CSUs and UCs
- Better job opportunities for students

Where we are in the process: Timeline



Spring 2022

- Paperwork completed and submitted by January 15, 2022 deadline

Summer 2022

- Bachelors Degree Program Work Group reviewed applications

Fall 2022

- Mt. SAC Board of Trustees Approval
- Chancellor's Office Approval
- ACCJC Approval (through the substantive change process)
- Board of Governors Approval

Final Approval

- Expected sometime in Fall 2022, with possibility of beginning the program in 2023 or 2024



Teamwork and Collaboration!

Bill Scroggins - President & CEO

Kelly Fowler - Vice President, Instruction

Kristina Allende, Irene Pinedo - Curriculum

Adrienne Price - Grants

Patty Quinones - Director of Research & Institutional Effectiveness

Meghan Chen - Associate Vice President, Instruction

Morris Rodrigue - Vice President, Administrative Services

Audrey Yamagata-Noji - Vice President, Student Services

Information Technology

Life Sciences/Biotechnology Group

Matt Judd – Dean, Natural Sciences

John Vitullo - Associate Dean, Natural Sciences

James DeKloe - Solano Community College

Barbara Juncosa - Mira Costa College

Michelle Sampat, Lianne Greenlee - Mt. SAC Accreditation team

George Bradshaw - Dean, Admissions

Chisato Uyeki, Roger Willis - Academic Senate

Carmen Rexach - Professor of A&P, Microbiology, and Public Health

Jennifer MacDonald - Professor of Histotechnology

Departments of Communication, Biology, Philosophy, and Sociology

And many more!

THANK YOU from our students and graduates!

