

**Berkshire Medical Center
School of Medical Technology**

Course Syllabus

Course No. MEDT 403

Course Title: Clinical Microbiology

Credits: 8

Description:

Introduces the student to the study of bacterial, fungal, parasitic, and viral infections in humans. Discusses transmission, clinical symptoms, specimen collection, and laboratory methods used to identify suspect organisms. Describes the controllable and non-controllable pre-analytical, analytical, and post-analytical variables that can affect testing. Discusses prevention as well as antibiotic therapy. The student applies this theory in the clinical lab to isolate and identify pathogens including bacteria, fungi, parasites, and viruses using current technologies, to provide diagnosis and antibiotic sensitivity information, and to correlate test results with disease states.

Primary Didactic Instructor: Amber Williams, MT(ASCP), SM
Microbiology Technologist
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Additional Instructors/
Clinical Coordinators Kari Murad, Ph.D.
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Required text: Clinical Laboratory Microbiology: A Practical Approach
Karen Kiser, William Payne, Theresa Taff, 2011; ISBN: 9780130921956
Berkshire Medical Center Laboratory Microbiology online procedures

Reference texts:

Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology, 6th edition, 2019. Mahon and Lehman
Medically Important Fungi, 5th edition; Davise H. Larone, 2011
Atlas of Clinically Important Fungi, C. Sciortino, Jr; 2017
Medical Parasitology: A Self Instructional Text, 5th ed. Leventhal, Cheadle, 2002
Medical Parasitology, 9th edition; David John and William Petri Jr., 2006
Virology: Principles and Applications, John Carter, 2007
Molecular Virology of Human Pathogenic Viruses, 1st ed, W. Shick, 2016

Lecture: 1 hour lecture every week for 40 weeks
Additional lectures scheduled as needed
9 scheduled lectures in Parasitology
7 scheduled lectures in Mycology

Laboratory: 8 week clinical rotation in the Microbiology Department.

**See individual student schedule for dates

Course Goals and Objectives

Based on the didactic material and clinical instruction students will score an average of 75% or better on evaluation tools (i.e. exams, unknowns, evaluations, etc) to demonstrate competency of the following objectives.

Upon completion of the Microbiology clinical and didactic course the student will:

1. Develop an entry-level knowledge of Bacteriology, Parasitology, Mycology, and Virology tests used in the clinical laboratory and their importance in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.
2. Discuss the importance of normal flora by body site.
3. Discuss physiological mechanisms that lead to specific microbiology related disorders and disease states.
4. Discuss the current prevention and treatment for pathologic disorders caused by bacteria, fungi, parasites, or viruses.
5. Explain the principles and methods of each test performed in the Microbiology laboratory and the clinical significance.
6. Explain the importance of quality control and apply it in the laboratory setting.
7. Determine appropriate specimen collection, transport, processing, and work-up of patient specimens by following established procedures.
8. Differentiate organisms and cellular material on a Gram smear, stained smear or wet prep including bacteria, fungi, and parasites.
9. Differentiate bacteria and fungi using media, colony morphology, and biochemical testing.
10. Distinguish normal flora from opportunistic or true pathogens growing on various media.
11. Work up bacterial cultures following established procedures that result in successful identification of organisms.
12. Discuss antibiotic sensitivity patterns associated with bacteria identified in the microbiology lab.
13. Discuss the significance of antibiotic resistance organisms to healthcare and patient treatment.
14. Perform manual and automated testing on patient samples that result in valid laboratory results in the Microbiology department.
15. Perform routine maintenance, trouble shooting and quality control on instrumentation in the Microbiology department following established procedures.
16. Evaluate quality control data and determine course of action when quality control falls outside of range.
17. Interpret laboratory data generated from the Microbiology laboratory regarding test accuracy and abnormal findings/values.
18. Evaluate microbiology laboratory data and give possible cause or diagnosis for patient results.
19. Organize workflow for efficiency in lab testing turn-around-times.
20. Describe Infection Control in general terms and discuss the specific components of Berkshire Medical Center's Infection Control Plan and the role of the laboratory.
21. Practice established confidentiality guidelines.
22. Demonstrate professional and ethical conduct with all healthcare professionals, consumers, patients, and other laboratory students.

Basis for Student Evaluation

Lecture evaluation will consist of exams and assigned exercises. The laboratory evaluation will consist of clinical performance, written exams, affective evaluation and identification of bacterial unknowns. The final grade will be composed of 50% lecture and 50% laboratory. See Microbiology grade sheet for specific breakdown.

Affective behaviors

Didactic

Following appropriate training, during didactic instruction the student will:

1. Exhibit professional behavior during didactic instruction.
2. Attend lectures in a timely manner.
3. Respect other students and members of the laboratory.
4. Contribute to a positive learning environment.
5. Demonstrate an interest in the subject matter.
6. Comply with hospital and laboratory dress code and personal appearance policies.
7. Comply with institutional policies concerning safety.
8. Cooperate when situations arise and there is a necessary change in lecture schedule.

Clinical

Following appropriate training, during clinical instruction the student will:

1. Comply with all hospital, laboratory, and school policies.
2. Demonstrate phone etiquette using BMC customer service standards.
3. Maintain a neat, clean, and orderly work area in the Microbiology department.
4. Value the advice and opinion of others.
5. Accept responsibility for his/her own actions.
6. Be dependable and punctual for the clinical experience.
7. Organize his/her time to complete assignments and daily training.
8. Accept constructive criticism and use it as a tool for improved performance.
9. Establish a good rapport with co-workers and uphold the concept of teamwork.