

Kathy Harker

From: Kimberly Mathews
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Freddy Saucedo - Glendale; ulianamr@lamission.edu; MILLERTS@WLAC.EDU; aderdiarian@pasadena.edu; WILSONMR@LATTC.EDU; MAYORGE@ELAC.EDU; dswingle@mtsac.edu
Cc: Kathy Harker; Eleanor Tsark; Jeremy Clark
Subject: RE: Collegial Consultation for Environmental Monitoring in Biomanufacturing at Citrus College
Attachments: 0430.00_Environmental Monitoring in Biomanufacturing_Citrus_Apr25-Jun25.pdf; Biotech Advisory Committee Minutes_2022_Perkins.pdf; Biotech Advisory Committee Minutes_2023_Perkiins.pdf; Biotech Advisory Committee Minutes_2024_Perkins.pdf; BIOT 160_ Environmental Monitoring and Quality Operations in Biomanufacturing.pdf

Good Morning!

Please review the email and attachments from our Biotech faculty at Citrus College. Thank you!

We hope you are having a great summer. We are reaching out to request collegial consultation as part of our LARC recommendation application for Citrus College's plan to add a new stackable certificate of achievement to our biotechnology program.

We currently offer a certificate of achievement in biomanufacturing and an associate's degree in biotechnology. Our program has thus far focused on training students for entry-level manufacturing technician positions. However, in recent years we have noted an increased interest in environmental monitoring and quality control microbiology among our students. Additionally, discussions with our industry partners during the last several advisory meetings (see attached minutes for years 2022, 2023 and 2024) have revealed that the current biomanufacturing lab course (BIOT 150) does not provide enough time to adequately prepare students for entry-level environmental monitoring (EM) or quality control (QC) microbiology technician positions. We propose adding a course and a stackable certificate dedicated to EM skills training to close this training gap. Our industry partners are very supportive of adding an EM/QC microbiology course and certificate to better prepare our students for QC micro and EM technician roles at their companies. The rationale for adding such a certification is also supported by labor market data for Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (COE Labor Market report attached).

The new course, BIOT160: Environmental Monitoring and Quality Operations in Biomanufacturing, has been written and approved of locally and by the chancellor's office (COR attached). We have also secured Perkins funding to be used over this academic year (July 2025 – June 2026) for course development and implementation. We aim to offer BIOT160 for the first time during the summer 2026, 6-week intersession. We would like to have the completion of this additional training course earn students a stackable certificate in Environmental Monitoring and Quality Operations.

We will be seeking LARC recommendation for the stackable certificate during the August 2025 business meeting. Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns, or comments about our application by replying to this email on or before July 25th, 2025. We've attached the BIOT160 COR, supporting industry advisory minutes, and the COE Labor Market Information packet for your consultation.

Thank you,
Kathy Harker and Eleanor Tsark

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