Human and Animal Food Laboratory Professionals Curriculum Framework

A team of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) are building a competency-based curriculum framework for human and animal food laboratory professionals (shown below).

The purpose of the framework is to identify the competencies (knowledge, skills, and abilities) needed by a laboratory professional throughout his or her career. The framework is not used to develop training; rather, the competencies contained within the framework describe a competent laboratory professional after training is completed. Additionally, the framework holds behavioral anchors, which are measures that a manager/supervisor would use to assess the individual’s competencies.

The goal of the framework is a competent laboratory workforce doing comparable work as part of the Integrated Food Safety System.

The majority of work accomplished to date has focused on laboratory professionals at the Entry Level and Mid Level, shown in the image below.

Each "box" or "brick" within the framework represents a content or subject area in which the laboratory professional must possess competence. The content or subject areas are either core (applying to all laboratory professionals) or program-specific (applying to laboratory professionals specializing in either Chemistry, Microbiology, or Specialized Laboratories).

Framework development workshops are held periodically, either at the APHL headquarters in Silver Spring, MD or via interactive webinar. The SMEs participating in these workshops represent a range of stakeholders including but not limited to APHL, AFDO, AAFCO, FDA, and state laboratories.

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