Human and Animal Food Laboratory Professionals Curriculum Framework and Training Development

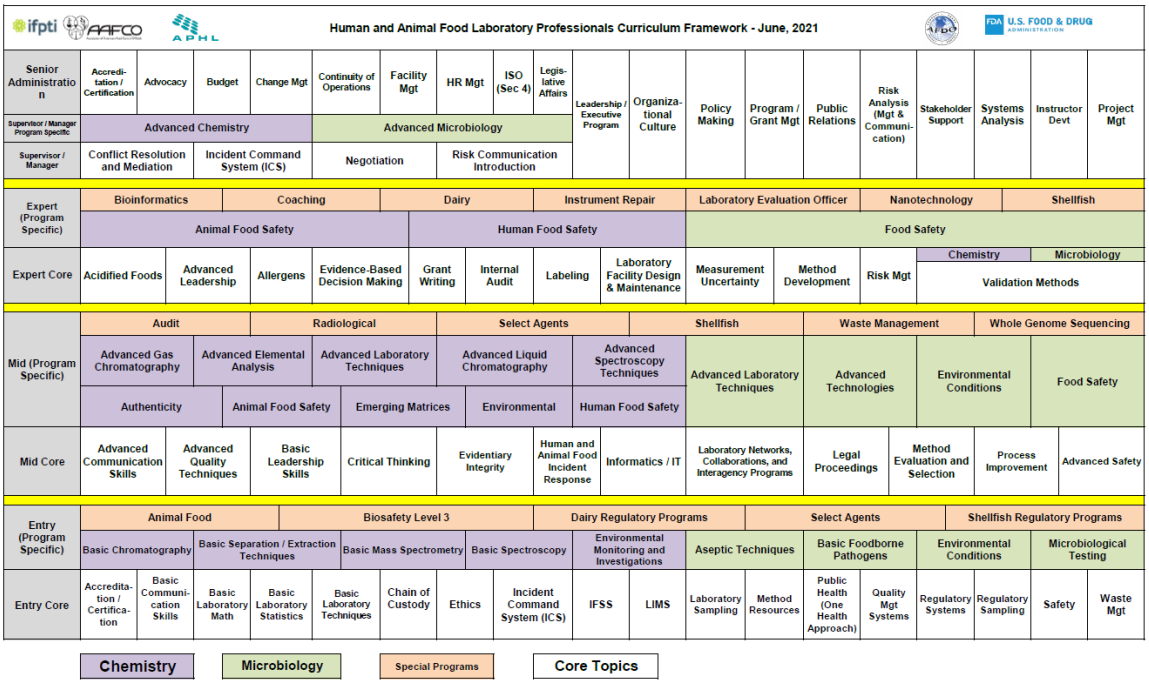
APHL is leading a team of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to build a competency-based curriculum framework and accompanying trainings for human and animal food laboratory professionals (framework shown below).

Framework Development

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. Finalized competency statements and behavioral anchors for the Entry Level – General, Entry Level – Program Specific, and Mid Level – General content areas can be found at APHL's website.



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 [purple], Microbiology [green], or Specialized Testing [pink]).

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, CFIA, and state laboratories.

Training Development

APHL is developing competency-based training to accompany the Laboratory Curriculum Framework. Beginning with the Entry Level General Education content areas, these courses are designed to provide human and animal food laboratorians the knowledge and skills needed to be deemed competent in a particular subject area. Several online courses are now available on APHL's Training Portal. Governmental laboratorians are able to access these courses free of charge; email foodsafety@aphl.org for the access code.

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