

FACULTY AGENDA ITEM 14.14

Date: February 24, 2014

Submitted by: Laura Stephenson, Interim Dean

SUBJECT: **Biology Deletion**, Bachelor of Arts in Biology with Secondary Education Emphasis

Description: *To receive departmental approval as having competency for licensure in teaching biology at the secondary level, majors must complete a minimum of a BA or a BS in Biology as outlined above. The student's curriculum must include a course in behavior, evolution, anatomy, physiology, ecology, and sexually transmitted disease.*

Completion of the 23-hour core, other major requirements, and appropriate course work within the Department of Education in science teaching methods will satisfy the State competency requirements for licensure in biology. See the Department of Biology and the Department of Education for details.

Students seeking licensure to teach biology must be formally admitted to the University's Professional Teacher Education Programs. For admission requirements, see EDUCATION in this catalog.

Rationale: *With respect to our biology degrees for students seeking teaching certification, our recent goal has been to reduce the number of required credit hours to earn such degrees while still providing a broad exposure to the biological sciences. This presents a challenge, but we believe we have developed a new curriculum for majors seeking a B.S. degree in Biology with Secondary Education Specialization that reduces the overall number of credit hours yet still prepares our students to perform well on licensure examinations.*

The current B.A. degree in Biology for Secondary Education consists of an arduous number of credit hours (165 minimum) such that it attracts few students into the program, especially as first-year students. Thus, we propose deleting the B.A. Biology degree in Secondary Education in favor of modified B.S. Degree in Biology (Secondary Education Specialization) following the model used by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. The proposed changes to the B.S. in Biology (Secondary Education Specialization) degree lowers the number of credit hours required in biology from 52 to 38, which therefore lowers the total degree requirements from 154 to 140. While this is still 16 credit hours higher than most degrees on campus, this is a much more manageable set of degree requirements and is more competitive with our peer institutions.

Current Catalog Language: *To receive departmental approval as having competency for licensure in teaching biology at the secondary level, majors must complete a minimum of a BA or a BS in Biology as outlined above. The student's curriculum must include a course in behavior, evolution, anatomy, physiology, ecology, and sexually transmitted disease.*

Completion of the 23-hour core, other major requirements, and appropriate course work within the Department of Education in science teaching methods will satisfy the State competency requirements for licensure in biology. See the Department of Biology and the Department of Education for details.

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Proposed Catalog Language: ~~*To receive departmental approval as having competency for licensure in teaching biology at the secondary level, majors must complete a minimum of a BA or a BS in Biology as outlined above. The student's curriculum must include a course in behavior, evolution, anatomy, physiology, ecology, and sexually transmitted disease.*~~

~~Completion of the 23-hour core, other major requirements, and appropriate course work within the Department of Education in science teaching methods will satisfy the State competency requirements for licensure in biology. See the Department of Biology and the Department of Education for details.~~

~~Students seeking licensure to teach biology must be formally admitted to the University's Professional Teacher Education Programs. For admission requirements, see EDUCATION in this catalog.~~

Financial Implications: *None*

Proposed Effective Date: *Fall 2014.*

Request for Action: *Approval by AAC/.FAC/FS/ Gen Fac, etc*

Approved by: AAC on **3-10-14**

FAC on date

Faculty Senate on date

Attachments Yes No