

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



University Curriculum Committee

*Telephone: 309/438-3183
Campus Box 2202
101C Moulton Hall*

November 8, 2012

TO: Daniel Holland, Chairperson, Academic Senate
FROM: Jean Standard, Chair, University Curriculum Committee *JMS*
RE: Executive Summary – Proposal for the New Plant Biology Sequence

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposal to add a new Plant Biology Sequence to the Major in Biological Sciences.

The School of Biological Sciences has given a reasonable rationale for adding the new sequence:

- The main goal of this sequence is to provide students with an appropriate and solid background for careers or further education in a diversity of areas in plant biology.
- While it is possible for a student to take plant biology classes without being in this sequence, this organized sequence will explicitly guide the students and alert potential employers to their more focused training.
- Faculty will work with students to emphasize the student's area of interest.
- Potential employers include: government agencies at the federal level (U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and at the state level (IL DNR and MO DNR); nonprofit organizations (Nature Conservancy, botanical gardens and nature centers); industries with research labs such as agricultural companies (e.g. Monsanto) and others focusing on alternative fuels.
- A very recent assessment by the Chicago Botanic Garden and Botanic Gardens Conservation International's U.S. office on the training of students in Plant Biology found that training at universities is declining while the needs from private industry such as the biofuels industry and federal positions are increasing.

The School of Biological Sciences proposes adding five new sequences and deleting one sequence to reorganize the Major in Biological Sciences. Other proposed new sequences will be presented separately, however they all are part of the revision of the major.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add this new sequence.

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Attachments