

ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



*University Curriculum Committee*

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April 10, 2009

TO: Daniel Holland, Chairperson, Academic Senate

FROM: Carlyn Morenus, Chair, University Curriculum Committee

RE: Executive Summary of Proposed New Sequences within Biochemistry/Molecular Biology

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposals to add two sequences: (1) Biochemistry Sequence, and (2) Molecular Biology Sequence to the Major in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, which is jointly administered by Biological Sciences and Chemistry.

The Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) program is currently serving two subgroups of students, those that wish to receive training in Biochemistry and those that desire courses and labs that will provide training in Molecular Biology. The School of Biological Sciences and the Department of Chemistry propose adding two new sequences (in addition to adding the title of "General Sequence" to the current BMB major) to provide degree options to better train the students for graduate school and the workforce. The changes proposed will serve the needs of the two existing subgroups and also allow for greater flexibility as follows:

- The proposed Molecular Biology Sequence will require BSC 260-Microbiology and provide an improved balance between CHE and BSC courses (in comparison to the current BMB degree).
- Molecular Biology will also provide increased elective hours, giving the student time to learn advanced fields for which molecular biology training is in strong demand (Immunology, Neurobiology, Developmental Biology, and others).
- The proposed Biochemistry Sequence deletes BSC 220 (students will get this information in CHE 343) and BSC 350, providing more flexibility to choose from several BSC elective courses.
- The existing BMB degree, which requires approximately twice as many Chemistry hours as Biological Sciences hours, already contains the framework of a Biochemistry sequence. Therefore, the changes proposed are minor relative to the Molecular Biology sequence.

Also requested is the addition of the title, "General Sequence" to the current requirements under the Major in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology. They wish to allow students the option of enrolling in the existing program if they do not wish to enroll in the Biochemistry or Molecular Biology sequences. They did indicate at the University Curriculum Committee meeting that they anticipate elimination of the "General Sequence" in the future.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposals to add the new sequences and the new sequence title.

Attachments