

153

Proposal #
(Academic Affairs use only)

001 Proposal #
(College use only)

REQUEST FOR PROGRAM CHANGE(S)

University of Central Oklahoma

Please note: All information contained in this form will be reviewed by persons outside of your college. Please use clear and concise language when completing this form.

Name of program-major or minor to be changed: (maximum of 30 spaces)

Existing Name:

Biology - Biology

Proposed Name: (if changing)(maximum of 30 spaces)

*Remember when abbreviating names, this is how they will appear on student's transcripts.

Proposed Name: (full name of program/major if longer than 30 spaces)

Is this a: Program Major Minor Sequence of Courses

Proposed change:

Name Change

Curriculum Change

Degree Designation

GPA Requirement

Admission Requirement

Other:

Is this program: Undergraduate Graduate

Is this a teacher preparation program? (All courses required for any teacher preparation program must have approval from the Council on Teacher Education (CTE) before approval from AACC or Graduate Council.)

Yes No If yes, send copy of proposal to the Director of Teacher Education, Dr. Bryan Duke.

CTE Approval (Stamp or initial) _____

Biology

Department submitting the proposal

Dr. Bob Brennan

Rbrennan1@uco.edu


5735

Person to contact with questions

email address

Ext. number

Approved by:

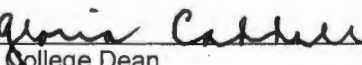

Department Chair

3-16-2020
Date


College Curriculum Committee Chair

3/24/20
Date

(Please notify department chair when proposal is forwarded to dean.)


College Dean

3/25/20
Date

(Please notify department chair when proposal is forwarded to AA.)

Academic Affairs Curriculum or Graduate Council Date

Office of Academic Affairs Date

Effective term for this program change
(Assigned by Academic Affairs)

1. Does this program change affect other programs or departments?

Yes No If yes, provide name(s) of department chair(s) contacted, date(s), and results of discussion(s).

2. Proposed curriculum change(s):

(Please include entire major/minor as it exists and as it is proposed. Italicize and bold changes.)

FROM

TO

(Existing Catalog Requirements) No Change	(Proposed Catalog Requirements) No Change
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3. Degree Designation: (Example, B.A. to B.F.A.)

Existing Designation: N/A To: _____

4. Change(s) in Minimum GPA Requirements:

FROM (Existing Catalog Requirements) No Change TO (Proposed Catalog Requirements)

5. Change(s) in Admission Requirements for the Program/Major:

FROM (Existing Catalog Requirements)

Admission Requirements

- BS/BA in Biology or related field

Submit the following items to:
Jackson College of Graduate Studies
100 N. University Drive, NUC 404
Edmond, OK 73034

- Written statement of a graduate faculty member's commitment to serve as Major Advisor.
- Online application for admission (www.uco.edu/graduate/).
- Official copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts from each institution attended with all degrees posted. All transcripts must be from accredited institutions. Undergraduate transcripts must show a minimal 2.50 GPA overall with a preferred minimal 3.00 GPA in the last 60 hours attempted.
- **GRE scores with a preferred minimum 50th percentile ranking in both the quantitative and verbal sections.**
- Three letters of recommendation, one of which may be from the faculty member who will serve as Major Advisor.
- Students with a native language other than English must submit evidence of English language proficiency. See Admission to Graduate Studies - English Language Proficiency (p.15).

Note: Students must meet with faculty mentor/advisor in a group or individual advisement session before enrolling.

TO (Proposed Catalog Requirements)

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6. Other requested action:

None requested

7. Will requested change require additional funds? Yes No

If yes, please specify the amount of the additional costs, the source of the funds, and how they will be expended over the next three years, including new or re-allocated full or part time faculty/staff.

Additional Funds	20	20	20
Amount of additional costs			
Source of funds			
How funds will be expended			

8. Please provide a summary of the requested changes. (this is a listing of the changes requested) (This information will be submitted to the OSRHE)

The Biology Department is removing the GRE as a requirement for admission to the M.S. graduate program.

9. The reason(s) for this change are based on which of the following: (Check all that apply; explain and document in Question #10)

- Specialized Accreditation
- SSCI (Self Study for Continuous Improvement)
- Benchmark (e.g. comparison to peer institutions)
- Assessment Data
- Faculty Knowledge/Discipline Expertise
- Advisory Board/Outside Professional Group
- Other

10. For all items checked in Question #9, please provide a concise, yet comprehensive, statement that explains the reasons for requesting the change including any necessary documentation. (The information provided here will be submitted to the OSRHE)

The Biology Department decided to remove the GRE as an admission requirement for three reasons. First, there is data that shows it is not a good indicator of success in a graduate program. A May 2019 report in Science summarized the findings and can be provided if requested. Second, it has been shown to be prohibitively expensive, especially for students in underrepresented groups. As it currently stands, few if any faculty actually look at the GRE scores. It is simply a check box, providing no benefit to the faculty or the student, and instead representing an unnecessary financial hurdle for students. Finally, the removal of the GRE from the admission requirements would follow a growing trend of life science programs that have removed the exam. This includes institutions of varying academic levels from research-focused institutions to smaller, primarily undergraduate institutions. For example, four of our 10 peer institutions no longer require the GRE for admission to their Biology MS programs.