

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE AND Ph.D. PROGRAMS
IN BOTANY AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by Iowa State University to terminate the Master of Science and Ph.D. Programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Executive Summary: The request to terminate the Program resulted from suspension of admissions. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

Background:

- ◇ Description of program. The Botany graduate major was a departmental major of the Botany Department that provided training in plant sciences. However, it has not admitted students since departmental reorganizations occurred in 2003.
- ◇ Reason for proposed termination. In 2003, the Botany Department was merged with much of the then Zoology and Genetics Department to form the Department of Ecology, Evolution and the Department of Genetics, Development, and Cell Biology. At that time, the Botany graduate major had a few students, although most of the students in the Botany Department were in other majors, such as Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Genetics, or Plant Physiology. The undergraduate major in Botany was discontinued in 2004; the graduate major was not discontinued then so that the remaining students could complete their degrees. Even though admission to the graduate major was not formally suspended, the department did not admit new students after 2003. There have been no students in the major for nearly 10 years; the major has been functionally dormant even though it is still mentioned in the ISU Catalog with the explanation that “it is under review and may change status in the near future.”
- ◇ Impact of proposed termination on programming. Students eligible for admission to the Botany major have been accommodated in several interdepartmental majors, such as Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Genetics; Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology; and Plant biology. For all intents and purposes, the Botany graduate major has not existed for the last 10+ years.
- ◇ Three-year trend of enrollments and graduations. During the past five years, there were 0 student enrollments and 0 graduates.
- ◇ Impact on resources. There will be no reductions or other changes in faculty, staff, or facilities because no resources are allocated to this major.

- ◇ Impact on workforce. There will be no anticipated effect on the workforce needs of the state because other majors at ISU are available to provide equivalent training.
- ◇ Alternative programming. The related interdepartmental graduate majors in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Environmental Science; Genetics; Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology; Plant Physiology; and Toxicology provide alternative programming to the Botany graduate major.
- ◇ Effect on current students. Phasing out of the program is not required because there are no students enrolled in the graduate major.
- ◇ Effective date of termination. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, termination of the programs will become effective immediately and will be reflected on the department website and University Catalog.