

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**PROPOSED PROGRAM TERMINATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN ORAL HEALTH SCIENCES**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to discontinue the Bachelor of Science Program in Oral Health Sciences.

Executive Summary: The request to discontinue the Program is based on the fact that the demand for the program did not materialize as anticipated. Only 12 students have been admitted since the program was established in 1998 and only three students have completed the program. Furthermore, the course offerings available through this program are also available through the Bachelor of Applied Studies (BAS) Program. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. There are no objections to the proposed program termination. This request is consistent with the Board of Regents Strategic Plan strategy (4.1.1) to “pursue opportunities to realize greater efficiency in operations, consistent with best practices in the delivery of education and other services.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** The Bachelor of Science Program in Oral Health Sciences is a degree completion program for students with an associate of applied science degree from an accredited dental hygiene program. It offers dental hygienists an opportunity to supplement their knowledge and experience with additional course work in the liberal arts and sciences and allows interdisciplinary and individualized study.
- ◇ **History of program.** This program was implemented in 1998 subsequent to the closure of the University’s baccalaureate program in Dental Hygiene and in response to a perceived need for a four-year degree completion program for dental hygienists.
- ◇ **Effect of proposed termination on students.** A total of six students have enrolled in the program during the past five years. Two students graduated during that period. There are no students currently enrolled in the program. No new students will be admitted into the program if the proposed termination is approved.
- ◇ **Effect of proposed termination on resources.** Limited financial savings, primarily regarding brochures and mailings, will result from the proposed program termination. Some administrative time savings will result from the proposed program termination.
- ◇ **Alternatives available to students.** The Bachelor of Applied Studies Program is available for students who wish to pursue the completion of a baccalaureate program. The BAS Program has similar requirements and criteria for admission as the Oral Health Sciences Program and it provides the advantage of on-line and off-campus course offerings. Several dental hygienists have graduated from the BAS Program.
- ◇ **Effect of proposed termination on workforce needs.** No effect on workforce needs is anticipated because the BAS Program has the capacity to meet the demand for degree completion.