

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO EXTEND ADMISSIONS SUSPENSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE LEGACY PROGRAMS**

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Iowa to extend the admissions suspension for five legacy programs in Biomedical Sciences in the Graduate College and College of Medicine.

Executive Summary: The proposed change will extend admission suspension to five legacy programs currently operating under the Biomedical Sciences consortium. They have currently been suspended for three years, and would like two additional years to identify the optimal program structure. The Council of Provosts and Board Office reviewed this request and recommend approval.

Background:

Description of program. In 2016, the Board of Regents approved the creation of a new Biomedical Science graduate degree program that coalesced eight independent programs. At that time, these eight programs ascribed to the theory that a shared structure could improve the quality of the applicant pool and nimbleness in competing for grant funding and faculty. Each of these graduate programs suspended admissions to their legacy program upon entering the Biomedical Science consortium as a subprogram.

Reason for proposed change. Since 2016, three PhD programs (Biochemistry, Immunology and Microbiology) within the Biomedical Science consortium identified that their competitive needs for attracting high-quality students, funding and faculty are better served when structured as independent programs.

The other five legacy PhD programs (Anatomy & Cell Biology, Free Radical & Radiation Biology, Molecular & Cellular Biology, Molecular Physiology & Biophysics and Pharmacology) see benefits and promise in maintaining a subprogram in the Biomedical Science PhD degree program. Simply put, three years was not be enough time to identify which structure optimizes their program opportunities in attracting high-quality students and funding. They propose extending the original admission suspension for two years. Hence, upon Board of Regents approval to extend the admission suspension by two years, each of their respective PhD subprograms within the Biomedical Science degree program would continue as is.

Consistency with accreditation requirements. The change is not applicable to accreditation.

Effect on program configuration. The change is not applicable to program configuration.

Effect on students. The proposed change will not have any negative impact on current students. Each student will be allowed to matriculate in the structure to which they were admitted.

Effect on resources. The proposed change is not applicable to effect on resources.

Date of implementation. July 2020.