

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN  
OPERATIVE DENTISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Master of Science Program in Operative Dentistry in the Department of Operative Dentistry in the College of Dentistry.

**Executive Summary:** The request to terminate the Program resulted from a desire to reduce and combine graduate programs by replacing the existing program with the three-year graduate program in Oral Science. 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 purpose of the Master of Arts Program in Operative Dentistry is to provide students with (1) development and refinement of skills in advanced operative dentistry techniques with special emphasis on esthetic dentistry; students learn the latest materials and procedures in bonding technology and integrate them into a sound philosophy of esthetics through minimally-invasive direct restorative techniques; (2) experience in teaching and research in preparation for an academic career in operative dentistry; and (3) an opportunity for clinical case development and preparation for those interested in board certification in Operative Dentistry. The program requires a minimum of 48 semester hours. Both a Master of Science degree and a certificate in Operative Dentistry are awarded upon completion of the program of study.
- ◇ **Reason for proposed termination.** While the Master of Science Program in Operative Dentistry has a long history of training future educators and leaders in dentistry, the advances in technology have illustrated the need for additional training beyond the two years of the program. By closing the existing program and replacing it with the existing three-year Master of Science Program in Oral Science, students will have an additional year of study to accommodate the advances in technology in the field. Furthermore, duplication of effort and administrative time will be saved by reducing and combining graduate programs.
- ◇ **Impact of proposed termination on programming.** If the proposed termination is approved by the Board of Regents, suspension of admissions to the program will become effective immediately. However, the required courses for graduation will continue to be offered until the remaining students complete their degree or transfer to the Master of Science Program in Oral Science.
- ◇ **Five-year trend of enrollments and graduations.** Between Fall 2008 and Fall 2012, there were 32 students enrolled; seven students are still enrolled. Between 2007-2008 and 2011-2012, there were 10 graduates.
- ◇ **Impact on workforce.** The proposed program termination is not expected to affect the workforce needs of the state because other programming is available in the area of operative dentistry.

- ◇ Impact on resources. No reductions in faculty, staff, or facilities are anticipated. There will be minimal administrative cost savings. Duplication of effort and administrative time is expected to be eliminated.
- ◇ Alternative programming. Students interested in the area of operative dentistry will have the opportunity to enroll in the Master of Science Program in Oral Science. The extended time for the Oral Science program will provide students an opportunity to gain skills in technology advances in the field.
- ◇ Effect on current students. Currently, there are seven students in the program. They will have the opportunity to complete their degree under the requirements of the Master of Science Program in Operative Dentistry. If they decide to do so, they will graduate either this year (second year students) or next year (first year students). They will also have the option to switch to the Master of Science Program in Oral Science which will add one year to their expected completion date.
- ◇ Effective date of termination. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, suspension of new admissions to the program will become effective immediately and will be reflected on the department website and University Catalog. Termination of the program will become effective upon completion of the program by the seven students who are currently enrolled in the program or upon their transfer to the Master of Science Program in Oral Science.