

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA: FROM
BIOCHEMISTRY TO BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to change the department name from Biochemistry to Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the Carver College of Medicine.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this request.

Background: The names of scientific departments frequently change to keep pace with recent advances in scientific disciplines. The Department of Biochemistry at the University of Iowa was established in 1948, and the department name has remained unchanged despite numerous molecular advances in the field. Thus, the department requests a name change from the “Department of Biochemistry” to the “Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.”

Reason for proposed change: The name change will more accurately reflect the scientific expertise of the department. Currently 85% of the research-active faculty have some portion of their research programs in the area of molecular biology. It will also allow the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Iowa to keep pace with other Big Ten biochemistry programs. Northwestern, Michigan State, Penn State and Minnesota all have the molecular designation in the names of their biochemistry departments. With this name change, the department will become more broadly appealing to new faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students (and their parents), thereby allowing the department to more effectively recruit these cohorts.

Effect on program configuration: There are no changes to the program configuration. This name will better reflect the existing program configuration.

Effect on students: There is no impact on current students. All programs offered in the department will continue.

Effect on resources: The proposed change will not require new resources.

Date of implementation: July 2021.