

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BIORENEWABLE RESOURCES & TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE PROGRAM AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Approve the request by Iowa State University to terminate the graduate program in Biorenewable Resources & Technology in the Graduate College.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Description of program: This multi-disciplinary program offers the degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Biorenewable Resources and Technology (BRT), and a minor to students taking major work in other departments. Students admitted to the Biorenewable Resources and Technology interdepartmental graduate program could pursue MS, Ph.D., or a Ph.D. minor degree. The home department of a BRT student was the department of the student's major professor, who serves as the Chair of the student's Program of Study Committee and provides financial support to the student.

The curriculum was designed to encourage students to obtain co-major degrees in Biorenewable Resources and Technology and a more traditional science or engineering discipline. A thesis was required for the Master of Science degree.

Reason for proposed termination: The BRT program has experienced declining enrollments of over 90% since the program was first offered in 2002. The program does not have the financial resources to support new students or course instructors or administer the program.

Effect on current students: Because of lack of demand, no new students have been admitted in the last three years. The few students remaining are sufficiently far along in their programs that no special accommodation will be required to complete their graduation requirements.

Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends:

	Applications	Enrollment	Completions
2020	0	1	0
2019	0	1	1
2018	2	1	3
2017	0	2	4
2016	5	3	5

Impact on resources: The program never received direct funding to support students or instructors or administer the program. Students were supported through the individual research programs of affiliated faculty and courses were offered through academic departments, and funds to administer the program were provided from discretionary accounts of the Bioeconomy Institute. However, reduced research in biorenewables at ISU has reduced student opportunities in the field. There will be not impact on university resources by discontinuing the program because of the way it was configured.

Impact on workforce: This termination should have no impact on the workforce needs of the state.

Alternative programs: No alternative programs exist in the state, however, relevant coursework may still be available in the related departments at Iowa State University.

Effective date of termination: Upon approval by the Board of Regents.