

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR PROGRAM NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the Bachelor of Science in Science Education to Bachelor of Science in Science Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Recommendation: The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this change.

Reason for change: The Bachelor of Science (BS) in Science Education offers students courses in two or more science disciplines, supplemented by courses in the nature of science, and societal and educational applications of the sciences. Curriculum is managed in the Department of Teaching and Learning of the College of Education; the degree is awarded, and most courses are provided by, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). This major currently serves at least two distinct groups of undergraduate students:

1. Students who want a distribution of courses in two or more science disciplines—biology, chemistry, earth science and physics—that efficiently meet state requirements for secondary science teachers.
2. Students who want career in informal education in the sciences (ex. Wildlife camps, museums, national parks), applied sciences (ex. conservation), or who are planning application to professional programs, who are well served by a distribution of science courses, with an understanding of societal implications.

Under the new name, Science Studies, this major will still serve the same categories of students, while more accurately representing the course content, which includes 36-45 credits in the sciences from CLAS and 9-12 credits in applications of science in education from the College of Education.

The name “Science Education” has contributed to confusion among students, faculty and staff. There have been instances in which individual students have wrongly assumed that admission to the BS in Science Education also provided admission to the Teacher Education Program; it does not.

More urgently, the new name will resolve confusion between the newly approved Bachelor of Arts in Science Education offered by the College of Education which is part of the Teacher Education Program, but has different curricula.

Impact on Students: Current students and new students admitted under the 2019-2020 General Catalog will have the option to continue under the current name (BS in Science Education) or change to and graduate under the new name (BS in Science Studies).

Relationship to accreditation: There are no known accreditation issues for this name change.

Date of implementation: August 2019