

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR A PROGRAM NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA:
FROM BACHELOR OF ARTS PROGRAM IN MIDDLE/JUNIOR SCHOOL SCIENCE
TEACHING TO BACHELOR OF ARTS PROGRAM IN
MIDDLE-LEVEL SCIENCE TEACHING DUAL MAJOR**

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa to change the name of the Bachelor of Arts Program in Middle/Junior High School Science Teaching to the Bachelor of Arts Program in Middle-Level Science Teaching Dual Major in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences.

Executive Summary: The proposed program name change will differentiate this program from other secondary science teaching programs at the University because it is a dual major. This request has been 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 “ensure access to education and student success.”

Background:

- ◇ Description of program. This program requires a minimum of 133-136 credit hours to graduate, including the Liberal Arts Core requirements, the Professional Education requirements, and the specified major requirements. Students who complete this program must also complete the Middle Level Education Dual Major – Teaching. This major is for students who wish to teach at the middle school level. Students complete subject area concentrations in science and up to three other subject area concentrations, including Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies. This major fulfills the following endorsement requirements – Basic Science (5-12); Middle School Science (5-8); and one other Middle School subject (5-8), including Language Arts, Mathematics, or Social Studies.
- ◇ Reason for proposed name change. The proposed name change will specify that the focus of the major is on teaching at the middle level and that it is a dual major with additional requirements. The name change will be used by science education faculty in the Colleges of Education (Department of Curriculum and Instruction) and Humanities, Arts, and Sciences to articulate the intent of the major which will benefit recruitment and advising.
- ◇ Comparable name at other institutions. The proposed name change will be consistent with other secondary science teaching programs because it will be clearly identified as a science teaching program. There are no other institutions in the state who have the same or similar program name.
- ◇ Consistency with accreditation requirements. This proposed program name meets the requirements for endorsement by the Iowa Department of Education.
- ◇ Effect on program configuration. The number of credit hours and the curricular requirements will remain the same.
- ◇ Effect on students. Students’ degree will more accurately reflect their academic preparation and qualifications to teach middle level science and will provide enhanced opportunities for teaching positions.

- ◇ Effect on resources. There are few if any anticipated costs resulting from changing the program name. The majority of the recruitment and program description materials are in electronic form; cost of materials in print format are not anticipated.
- ◇ Proposed name consistent with College mission. The proposed name change is consistent with the mission of the University and College because it articulates the collaborative, innovative, and transformative education provided to students to prepare them to be effective science teachers who will implement research-based pedagogies which address the needs of their students.
- ◇ Workforce needs. The proposed name communicates to school administrators and science department heads that individuals who completed this major have the background to teaching middle-level science as well as other subject area concentrations at this grade level. Individuals who complete this program will have the ability to teach science as well as other subjects at the middle level. Individuals who have this background provide potential employers with the flexibility to satisfy their teaching needs.
- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed program name change will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and will be included in the University's General Catalog. The anticipated implementation date is Spring 2017.