Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIOLOGY: BIOMEDICAL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Committee Action Requested: Recommend to the Board approval of the request to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Biology: Biomedical in the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa.

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

Description of the program: The Bachelor of Arts (BA) Biology: Biomedical degree offers basic preparation to students for allopathic, osteopathic, chiropractic, pharmacy, physical therapy, dental, veterinary, optometric, podiatric and other health-related programs. In addition, it prepares students for graduate study in biomedical sciences, e.g., pharmacology, toxicology, pathology, physiology, cellular biology and related areas. Students should seek advice and information early in their programs so that individual goals and specific additional requirements of some graduate and professional programs can be considered in curricular planning.

Reason for proposed termination: The Department of Biology is proposing a permanent change to the structure of its bachelor's degrees from a BA focus to a BS model and thus proposes deactivating this program. The current Biology BS degree will have three emphases -- integrative biology, biomedical, and ecology, evolution and organismal biology. This switch is not a significant change to UNI's current curriculum. The only change is the requirement of undergraduate research to earn the Biology BS with a Biomedical emphasis. Many students enrolled in UNI's current Biology: Biomedical BA are already engaging in research with faculty. The change to BS will formalize this experience. The research requirement can be completed through BIOL 3190 Undergraduate Research where students work directly with a faculty member in their research lab or by taking BIOL 4173 Research Experience in (topic). BIOL 4173 is a new semester-long course-based undergraduate research experience in which students investigate open-ended questions on various topics in biology. Students will engage in scientific inquiry, including developing research questions, designing experiments and projects, collecting and analyzing data, and communicating results in professional scientific formats. The specific research focus will vary by semester and instructor but will involve exploration of biological systems at the molecular, organismal or ecological level.

Effect on current students: Any current applicants or enrolled students can be easily accommodated by either choosing to do research and thus earning the BS degree or deciding not to engage in research and earn a BA. UNI will also maintain a general Biology BA degree option.

Enrollment and Completion Trends:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Majors	55	138	183	161	125
Graduates	3	6	14	34	42

Impact on resources: There will be no effect on costs resulting from reducing enrollment, staffing and resource allocations. This population of students will switch to the amended BS degree with a biomedical emphasis. All courses and staffing will remain the same.

Impact on workforce: This change will not impact workforce needs since the biomedical track will continue to exist within the Biology BS. Ensuring that all students engage in a high-quality research experience will improve graduates' workforce and graduate school preparedness.

Alternative programs: All universities and colleges offer a bachelor's degree in biology. This is a standard degree offered in the liberal arts and sciences.

Date of Implementation: Upon approval of the Board of Regents.