Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO TERMINATE GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN TOXICOLOGY AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Committee Action Requested: Recommend to the Board approval of the request to terminate the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Toxicology in the Graduate College at Iowa State University.

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

Description of the program: The toxicology program has been active at Iowa State University since the mid-1980s. Toxicology is the science of studying the adverse effects of substances on living organisms. Students observe, gather data and predict risks and outcomes in populations. Whole organism research and cellular and molecular approaches are used to determine toxicant exposure and mechanisms. The program provides theoretical frameworks in toxicology and practical application of that knowledge through graduate training. Graduate students have coursework and generate innovative and original research findings that are finalized in a thesis or dissertation. Students are trained in advanced analytical techniques, critical thinking and data interpretation while also gaining experience in activities such as scientific writing and manuscript publication. Graduates have attained leadership roles in academia, industry and federal government sectors.

Reason for proposed termination: The closure is requested due to low enrollment with a current enrollment of four graduate students.

Effect on current students: The current students will be supported by their mentors until degree completion. No more students will be accepted in the program. Other toxicology classes will not be offered going forward unless as an elective for a student program.

Enrollment and Completion Trends:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Majors	14	12	8	4	5
Graduates	8	5	1	1	3

Impact on resources: Terminating the program will reduce administrative costs by eliminating the graduate college's annual stipend for the Director of Graduate Education. It will also allow effort to be reallocated to other departmental teaching and research. Ending low-enrollment toxicology courses will further enable faculty to be reassigned to undergraduate and graduate courses that better align with departmental needs.

Impact on workforce: Graduates of other biotechnology areas of study can fulfill workforce needs.

Alternative programs: ISU has MS and PhD programs in Biomedical Science. The University of Iowa has PhD programs in Human Toxicology and Biomedical Science.

Date of Implementation: Upon approval of the Board.