

FORM J
BOARD OF REGENTS
INSTITUTIONAL PROCESS TO REQUEST ACADEMIC PROGRAM REDUCED ADMISSIONS,
PROGRAM SUSPENSION, OR PROGRAM TERMINATION
January 29, 2015

Name of institution: Iowa State University

Date submitted:

Name of program: Biophysics

CIP Code: _____

College: __LAS

Level: B M D FP

Degree abbreviation (e.g., B.S., B.A., M.A., etc.): _____

Action requested: Reduced admissions _____ Program suspension x Program termination _____

The request for admission reduction, program suspension, or program termination shall be reviewed in-depth by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts. With the recommendation for approval by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts, the request for admission reduction, program suspension, or program termination shall be submitted to the Board of Regents for discussion and action.

The institution shall not communicate to the public its intended action to limit enrollment, suspend the program, or terminate the program until it is been approved by the Board of Regents.

- Provide a brief description of the program.
- Provide a brief rationale for the requested action.
- Describe how students currently admitted to or eligible for admission to the program will be accommodated; what kind of transition period is planned; length of transition period.
- Describe the effect on costs of reducing enrollments or terminating the program, e.g., cost savings, resource reallocations, etc.
- Is program available elsewhere in the state? Identify the schools where the program is available and the current enrollment at those sites.
- Provide an annual analysis for a 5-year period of applications in the academic program; provide an annual analysis for a 5-year period of enrollments in the academic program.
- Provide an annual analysis for a 5-year period of graduations from the academic program.
- Is this intended to be a temporary or permanent change (applies only to reduced admissions)? If temporary, for how long?
- How will the reduction or termination affect workforce needs in the state? Be as specific as possible.
- What is the anticipated impact on other programs? Will students likely go elsewhere?
- What is the anticipated impact on minorities and women?
- Is a reduction in faculty, staff, facilities, etc. anticipated?
- Provide any other information that might be helpful to the Board of Regents in considering this request.

Information in support of Form J; discontinuation of the Biophysics B.S.

Formed in 1960, the current department of Biochemistry, Biophysics, & Molecular Biology (BBMB) was originally “Biochemistry and Biophysics”, and offered BS degrees in Biochemistry and Biophysics. At the time the term biophysics meant biomechanics and was often associated with muscles, movement, and nerve cell function (things that were focal points in the middle of the last century). Since then the term has drifted to refer to molecular movement at the subunit and atomic levels, and is a mainstream part of the current Biochemistry major (as biochemistry has come into atomic resolution over the last 5 decades). The learning objectives of the Biophysics B.S. degree have drifted toward Biochemistry to the extent that our students are better served with a Biophysics specialization pathway within the Biochemistry B.S. degree plan. The newly approved focus options for the Biochemistry major now include this Biophysics focus option, and the Biophysics B.S. degree is unnecessary.

In support of this change, we note the relative rarity of Biophysics students over the past few decades. The numbers for this program are enumerated below:

year	2008	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
#	4	2	1	4	4	6	10	9	9	4	3	4	1	3	1
Grads	-	-	-	0	3	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	(1)

How will current students be accommodated? No courses will be eliminated as part of this proposal, so current students can continue with the program through completion. Future students with interest in Biophysics will be directed to the Biophysics focus of the Biochemistry B.S. degree.

Describe the effect on costs of reducing enrollments or terminating the program? There will be little impact on costs as no teaching is directed specifically at the program. There will be little effect on enrollment with so few students in the major. There will be marginal cost savings associated with administrative time saved overseeing and advising the program.

Is the program available elsewhere in the state? Not as a B.S. degree, but as a focus of the Biochemistry B.S. degree plan.

Is this a temporary or permanent change? Permanent.

How will this affect workforce needs? It will not (no courses are eliminated and no support are dedicated to this program).

What is the impact on other programs? There will be little impact as we have so few majors in this program.

What is the impact on minorities and women? There is no impact on any students, including minorities and women.

Is a reduction in faculty, staff, facilities anticipated? No.

BBMB vote in favor of discontinuation is 15-0-0

Academic Program Approval Voting Record

This document is to be appended as the last page of the proposal for any new or revised academic program to record the successive votes of approval as the proposal moves through its required review and approval steps. Consult Faculty Handbook Section 10.8 or the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee website for information regarding Committee review and voting requirements for each action.

Curricular Action: (check appropriate boxes below)

1. New Program Name Change Discontinuation Concurrent Degree for:
2. Undergraduate Major Graduate Major Undergraduate Minor Graduate Minor
 Undergraduate Certificate Graduate Certificate Other: _____
3. Name of Proposed Change: Biophysics, B.S.
4. Name of Contact Person: Eric Underbakke e-mail address: esu@iastate.edu
5. Primary College: LAS Secondary College: _____
6. Involved Department(s): BBMB _____

Voting record for this curricular action:

Voting Body	Votes			Date of Vote
	For	Against	Abstain	
Dept. or Program Committee	15	0	0	March 23, 2022
LAS College Curriculum Committee	9	0	0	Nov 18, 2022
LAS Rep Assembly	19	0	0	Nov 29, 2022
College Approval Vote:				
--Faculty Representative Assembly	19	0	0	Nov 29, 2022
Graduate Council	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee	6	0	0	Dec 5, 2022
Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Council	8	0	0	Feb 28, 2023
Faculty Senate				