UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON – PROGRAM CHANGE PROPOSAL

Electronically submit this completed form with attachments in one file to the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee.

COLLEGE (check one):  Arts and Sciences X  Business  Education
Proposal Submitted By: Andrew Dolby  Date Prepared: 10/3/14
Department /Program:  Biological Sciences/Biology major

Note: for any program change entailing the addition any new courses, or revisions to existing courses, separate proposal for those course actions must also be submitted.

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE EXISTING PROGRAM (check no than one of the following)
Revise requirements for existing major  x
Revise requirements for a concentration within an existing major
Revise requirements for an existing degree program
Revise requirements for existing certificate program
Revise requirements for existing minor
Implementation Date: FALL semester, year:

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR CHANGES TO EXISTING PROGRAMS:
1. Rationale statement (Why is this program change needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. Impact Statement (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, technology, and impacts created by this program change. Supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. evaluating the resource impact and feasibility of the program change are required.)
3. Catalog Copy (Provide the existing Catalog Description and the complete statement of the proposed new Catalog description that reflects the program changes)

PROPOSAL TO CREATE NEW PROGRAM NOT REQUIRING STATE ACTION
(check no more that one of the following)
New concentration within existing major  Name:
New minor  Name:
New Major but NOT a new degree*  Name:
*Use ONLY for interdisciplinary majors that will be grouped as part of the “Special Majors/General Liberal Arts and Sciences” degree (CIP Code 24.0101) or reported as a BLS degree (CIP Code 24.0199)
Implementation Date (semester and year):

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR NEW PROGRAMS NOT REQUIRING STATE APPROVAL:
1. Rationale statement (Why is this additional program needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. Impact Statement (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, technology, and impacts created by this program change. Supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. evaluating the resource impact and feasibility of adding the new program are required.)
3. Catalog Copy (Provide the complete Catalog Description for the proposed new program)

Department Chair Approval: Andrew Dolby  Date: 10/14/14
CCC Chair Approval:  Date: 
Dean Approval:  Date: 
UCC Chair Approval:  Date: 
*Provost Approval:  Date: 
*Required only in cases of proposals for new concentrations, new minors, or new majors that do not involve a new degree

Program Change Proposal Cover Sheet (July 2013)
1) Rationale

The Department of Biological Sciences would like to add CHEM 317- Biochemistry I as an elective course in the biology major. For at least the past 15 years, the department chair has issued exceptions to the major to allow students to count CHEM 317 in the biology major on an opt-in basis. While this practice began with a limited number of students and on a case-by-case manner, it has become routine to grant such permission to biology students en masse. Adding CHEM 317 as an elective would align the Academic Catalog with current practice and eliminate the large numbers of exceptions to the major now being processed by the Registrar’s Office. The department has determined that CHEM 317 has sufficient biology content and focus to count as an elective in the major. Other institutions even cross-list biochemistry between chemistry and biology. Such institutions include the College of William and Mary, James Madison University, and the University of Richmond. Our department has approached the Department of Chemistry with this proposition, but they did not agree to cross-list CHEM 317 with BIOL 317.

Furthermore, biology majors in several of our pre-healthcare programs and tracks (including pre-veterinary medicine) are required to take a semester of biochemistry to be eligible to apply for their respective healthcare-related professional programs. Allowing them to continue to count CHEM 317 in the biology major would maintain a measure of course scheduling flexibility. We have been filling our upper-level biology electives at an efficiency rate of 95% and above. Students have reported scheduling difficulty and have expressed a desire for greater upper-level course availability. CHEM 317 helps to alleviate this demand by accommodating 20-25 biology majors each fall. If we no longer allowed it to count in the major, we would not easily be able to make up for these seats with additional BIOL course offerings.

2) Impact

This change would have no impact on either the biology or chemistry programs. Again, we already allow biology students to count CHEM 317 in the biology major, and the vast majority of them exercise this option. The Department of Chemistry has voiced no opposition to this plan. This proposal simply formalizes and makes publically known via the Academic Catalog a currently existing de facto elective in the biology major.

3) Catalog Copy

Requirements for the Biology Major
Forty credits (40) in Biology. These must include BIOL 132 or 126, 210, 260, 340, 341, and 451; 2 laboratory courses, one designated Research Intensive (BIOL 302, 311, 412, 427, 430, 432, 491, and certain 471 courses; and 14 other credits BIOL major courses. CHEM 317 counts as an elective in the Biology Major.