

# 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.

<b>COLLEGE (check one):</b>	<b>Arts and Sciences</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Business</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Education</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
Proposal Submitted By: Department of Biology Curriculum Committee		Date Prepared: October 04, 2017	
Department /Program:	<b>Department of Biology</b>		

*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 <b>major</b>	XX
Revise requirements for a concentration within an existing <b>major</b>	
Revise requirements for an existing <b>degree program</b>	
Revise requirements for existing <b>certificate</b> program	
Revise requirements for existing <b>minor</b>	
<b>Implementation Date: FALL semester, year:</b>	FALL 2018

**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)	
<b>New concentration</b> within existing major	Name: _____
<b>New minor</b>	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)	
<b>Implementation Date (semester and year):</b>	_____

**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, staffing and curricular 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)
4. **Any change that impacts another Department must have a written statement (such as a copy of an email) from the Chair(s) agreeing to the change.**

Department Chair Approval: _____ <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <u>10/30/17</u>
CCC Chair Approval: _____ <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <u>11/09/17</u>
Dean Approval: _____ <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <u>11/13/17</u>
UCC Chair Approval: _____ <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <u>11/16/17</u>
*Provost Approval: _____	Date: _____

*\*Required only in cases of proposals for new concentrations, new minors, or new majors that do not involve a new degree*

The Department of Biology proposes to amend our requirements for graduation. Our current requirements for graduation include successful completion of BIOL 451 (a capstone seminar). We wish to keep this (and all other) requirements, adding to them the requirement that students must attain a C- or better in our four 'core' courses. These courses are: BIOL 210, BIOL 260, BIOL 340, and BIOL 341.

Proposed Change to text:

### Requirements for the Biology Major (*current*)

Forty credits (40) in Biology. These must include, 132 or 126, 210, 260, 340, 341, and 451; 2 laboratory courses, one designated Research Intensive (BIOL 302, 412, 427, 430, 432, 472, 491 and certain other 471 courses); and 14 credits in other BIOL major courses. CHEM 317 counts as an elective in the Biology Major.

BIOL 121, 132, or BIOL 125, 126, and CHEM 111, 112 are prerequisites for the biology major's core curriculum and should be taken in the student's first year. The core courses of BIOL 210, 260, 340, and 341 are also prerequisites for various upper-level courses. and should be completed during the second year. All graduating students must participate in the assessment of the major.

Students must earn a C- or better in each BIOL major required course that serves as a prerequisite for any other BIOL course. See also the Department of Chemistry's minimum grade requirements for CHEM 111, 112.

### Requirements for the Biology Major (*proposed*)

Forty credits (40) in Biology. These must include, 132 or 126, 210, 260, 340, 341, and 451; 2 laboratory courses, one designated Research Intensive (BIOL 302, 412, 427, 430, 432, 472, 491 and certain other 471 courses); and 14 credits in other BIOL major courses. CHEM 317 counts as an elective in the Biology Major.

BIOL 121, 132, or BIOL 125, 126, and CHEM 111, 112 are prerequisites for the biology major's core curriculum and should be taken in the student's first year. The core courses of BIOL 210, 260, 340, and 341 are also prerequisites for various upper-level courses. and should be completed during the second year. All graduating students must participate in the assessment of the major.

Students must earn a C- or better in each BIOL major required course that serves as a prerequisite for any other BIOL course. **Students must also earn a C- or better in the core courses (BIOL 210, 260, 340, 341) to graduate with a degree in Biology.** See also the Department of Chemistry's minimum grade requirements for CHEM 111, 112.

Rationale:

Currently, we include the requirement that students earn a C- or better in prerequisite courses to continue in our major. This is in place to ensure that students do not move through (or complete) our major without successfully mastering the material in our 'core' courses, which serve as prerequisites for most of our 300 and 400 level courses. All 4 of these courses are required prerequisites for our capstone seminar, BIOL 451, which is required to graduate. We therefore (by default) require students to have earned at least a C- in all 4 core courses, as long as students take these courses in sequence (BIOL 451 after all successful completion of the 4 core courses).

Every year, we have a few students who have not completed one of the core courses in the Spring semester of their senior year. This can be due to a previous failure in one of these core courses, but it is not uncommon for students who transfer to UMW in their third or fourth year to take this course during their final semester. We have thus allowed students to take one or more of these core courses in their final semester, concomitant with BIOL 451, to allow them to graduate on time. This introduces the problem that the student would be able to earn a D, or even fail this core course, but pass BIOL 451 and graduate. We do not want this to happen. However, we do not want to hold students from graduation for an additional (ninth) semester, due to prerequisite completion.

Our explicit requirement that students earn a C- or better in our 4 core courses (BIOL 210, 260, 340, 341) allows us to work around this issue – providing a corequisite waiver for BIOL 451 in certain cases, but still ensuring that students earn at least a C- in our core courses.

This change should have no impact on university resources, and should have minimal (or no) impact on departmental resources.