

## FACULTY AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Date: 2/19/2023

Submitted by: CAS / Andrew Herbig, x. 1769

SUBJECT: Informational Item - Decrease the Natural Sciences concentration requirement for Bachelor of Science degrees from 20 hours in one department to 15 hours.

Description / Rationale: The main rationale is a student-centered one that provides more flexibility in taking a variety of courses in the students' interest and/or career goals. Primarily, dropping the hours from 20 to 15 hours in one department provides students an opportunity to take a greater variety of science courses for their NS concentration. For example, most B.S. biology students take 20 hours of chemistry, but their future goals might not need them to have 20 hours of chemistry. Thus, they would benefit by taking a course or two from another science discipline that would help them after graduation. For example, they might choose to take a CM course in computer programming or another MA or PS course. The change is also likely to help students "double-dip" credit hours with some of the new interdisciplinary minors, especially the bioinformatics minor that is currently being developed.

It should be noted that both the departments of SO/AN and KN have stated that this change will not affect them.

Financial Implications: None indicated.

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2024

Request for Action: *None – Informational*

Attachments Yes ☒ No ☐

New Proposal

Date Submitted: 10/26/23 10:23 pm

Viewing: **Natural Science Concentration Hours Change to Bachelor of Science Degrees**

Last edit: 10/26/23 10:23 pm

Changes proposed by: Andrew Herbig (andrew.herbig)

Request Type	Policy Request or Change
Title	Natural Science Concentration Hours Change to Bachelor of Science Degrees
Request Details	<p>Decrease the Natural Sciences concentration requirement for Bachelor of Science degrees from 20 hours in one department to 15 hours.</p> <p>The main rationale is a student-centered one that provides more flexibility in taking a variety of courses in the students’ interest and/or career goals. Primarily, dropping the hours from 20 to 15 hours in one department provides students an opportunity to take a greater variety of science courses for their NS concentration. For example, most B.S. biology students take 20 hours of chemistry, but their future goals might not need them to have 20 hours of chemistry. Thus, they would benefit by taking a course or two from another science discipline that would help them after graduation. For example, they might choose to take a CM course in computer programming or another MA or PS course. The change is also likely to help students “double-dip” credit hours with some of the new interdisciplinary minors, especially the bioinformatics minor that is currently being developed.</p> <p>It should be noted that both the departments of SO/AN and KN have stated that this change will not affect them.</p>
Supporting Documents	<a href="#">Bachelor of Science Degree proposal 20 to 15 catalog change.pdf</a>
Reviewer Comments	

In Workflow

- 1. NSM Chair
- 2. CA Dean
- 3. CFCCC Chair
- 4. Assoc Dean CFC
- 5. CA Assoc Dean
- 6. Governance Check
- 7. Final Acad Ops
- 8. Registrar

Approval Path

- 1. 10/27/23 11:51 am  
Andrew Herbig (andrew.herbig):  
Approved for NSM Chair
- 2. 10/27/23 4:54 pm  
Kelly Erby (kelly.erby):  
Approved for CA Dean
- 3. 11/14/23 12:32 pm  
Bruce Mactavish (bruce.mactavish):  
Approved for CFCCC Chair
- 4. 11/21/23 11:15 am  
Kelly Erby (kelly.erby):  
Approved for Assoc Dean CFC
- 5. 02/07/24 5:41 pm  
Kelly Erby (kelly.erby):  
Approved for CA Assoc Dean

Key: 15