

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents

March 20, 2008

ACTION REQUEST

**SUBJECT:** New Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Combination Program by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Michigan-Flint

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval to offer a new Bachelor of Science/Master of Science in Chemistry or Biochemistry, College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Michigan-Flint

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2008

The College of Arts and Sciences, through the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, at the University of Michigan-Flint proposes a new combined undergraduate/graduate degree program, "Bachelor of Science/Master of Science in Chemistry or Biochemistry," effective April 1, 2008. This is in response to a significant number of requests by UM-Flint undergraduate students as well as recent changes in the profession that have increased the requirements for most entry-level positions.

The proposed program is designed to provide our students with the education and research experience that is necessary for them to be prepared for a career in chemical sciences. Students that complete this program of study will have enhanced career marketability and will be better prepared to enter a Ph.D. program should they so choose. This proposed program is in line with the mission of the University and will also help to fulfill the state and national needs for chemists and biochemists due to the increased entry-level requirement of an MS degree. This program also supports the efforts of the Cherry Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth emphasizing post-baccalaureate degrees in science.

Although modeled after successful programs at other institutions, there are currently no similar programs offered in the State of Michigan. This program would allow motivated UM-Flint students to complete the requirements for both a BS and MS degree in five years, assuming full-time year-round enrollment. The program will require students to perform research and to defend a thesis, thus ensuring that students have this needed experience. The program is designed to be complete in five years, with variable credits at the 500/600 levels; however, the program is also flexible, and students can decide to end their studies after four years and receive their Bachelor of Science degree.

The proposed BS/MS in Chemistry or Biochemistry has been thoroughly reviewed and supported by the University of Michigan-Flint College of Arts and Sciences faculty, Academic Affairs Advisory Committee, the Chancellor's Advisory Committee for Budget and Strategic Planning, as well as the interim provost and interim chancellor.

Students in the BS/MS program will complete all of the requirements for an American Chemical Society (ACS) certified Bachelor of Science degree plus additional graduate-level courses at the 500/600 levels. The overall program is research intensive, requiring a total of 16 credit hours of research. In order to complete the MS degree requirements, students will be required to develop and defend a thesis on their original research. Students must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 and a minimum GPA of 2.75 in all chemistry courses taken. Based on credit hours completed, students accepted into the program will choose a thesis committee that will consist of at least three faculty members, two of whom must come from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Pending approval of the proposal, the program will begin to admit students for the fall 2008 semester. The program will be included in the Department's comprehensive student outcomes assessment plan which has been approved by the University of Michigan-Flint Academic Assessment Committee. The Department maintains certification by the Committee on Professional Training (CPT) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) for all of their programs. With already offering a BS degree in Chemistry and a BS degree in Biochemistry, we currently have sufficient faculty and space to initiate the MS portion of this program.

We enthusiastically recommend and endorse the proposed Bachelor of Science/Master of Science in Chemistry or Biochemistry, effective April 1, 2008.


RECOMMENDED BY:



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D. J. Trela, Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:



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Vahid Lotfi, Interim Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



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Jack Kay, Interim Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Flint

March 2008