

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

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### ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation   
Decision   
Discussion/Direction   
Information

**DATE:** 24 January 2023

**FROM:** Undergraduate Studies Committee

**SUBJECT:** Minor Program Adjustment –Biological Science – Environmental Biology specialization

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### COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with Section 1. b) of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information.”

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty proposed changes related to the removal of the Environmental Toxicology specialization and additional changes to address pedagogical criteria.

- One required course to be removed from the program map: BIOL 3020U – Principles of Pharmacology and Toxicology
- One course requirement added to the program map: BIOL 4030U Advanced Topics in Environmental Toxicology
- Three courses moved around in the program map: CHEM 3050U – Environmental Chemistry; BIOL 4020U – Introduction to Environmental Toxicology; ENVS 3110U – Economics and Politics of the Environment.

Courses were moved in the course map to accommodate the removed/added courses, but the opportunity to organize courses was taken to address pedagogical criteria. Specifically, CHEM 3050U (Environmental Chemistry) was moved into the fall term of 3<sup>rd</sup> year so that students could take it before taking BIOL 4020U (Intro. Environmental Toxicology) in the winter term.

In order to spread out the electives taken in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year, ENVS 3110U was moved from the winter term in 3<sup>rd</sup> year to the winter term in 4<sup>th</sup> year.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

No additional resources are required. With the removal of the environmental toxicology specialization, a small increase in enrolment to the environmental biology specialization is expected.

**TRANSITION PLAN:**

Students currently enrolled in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Environmental Biology program would be permitted to complete BIOL 4020U and BIOL 4030U concurrently during their 4<sup>th</sup> yr of study during the 2023/2024 academic year.

**CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:**

- USC: 20 December 2022  
Faculty Council: 6 December 2022
- Curriculum Committee: 22 November 2022
  
- The biological science faculty has been consulted and is unanimously in agreement with the decision to dissolve the Environmental Toxicology specialization and revise the Environmental Biology program map to integrate environmental toxicology topics and courses.

**NEXT STEPS:**

This change will be included in the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar.

**SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- [Minor Program Adjustment Proposal](#)
- Course Change: [BIOL 4020U](#)