

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

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### ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation

Decision

Discussion/Direction

Information

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**DATE:** 24 January 2023

**FROM:** Undergraduate Studies Committee

**SUBJECT:** Major Program Modification – Remove Program Component –  
Bachelor of Science in Biological Science – Environmental  
Toxicology specialization

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### COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to examine proposals for new undergraduate degree programs and major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council”.

### MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That pursuant to the recommendation of the USC, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to remove the Environmental Toxicology specialization from the Bachelor of Science in Biological Science.

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing the removal of the Environmental Toxicology specialization. Enrollment in the specialization has been consistently very low and has had zero enrollment in 2021 and 2022).

Having two environmental-focused specializations is unnecessary; consolidating these two specializations will facilitate targeted recruitment and strategic planning.

The current Environmental Biology specialization already shares many courses with the Environmental Toxicology specialization and can readily encompass environmental toxicology topics with minimal changes needed to the program map.

### RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources are required for this change. No courses will be removed so teaching loads are not impacted.

**TRANSITION PLAN:**

There are currently four students registered in the specialization who will be contacted, provided a degree audit with the plan to finish their degree and ensuring they are aware of any changes to the semesters in which courses are currently offered. All courses are being maintained to permit students to complete the specialization.

There is minimal impact to absorbing similar enrollments in the Environmental Biology specialization.

**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.

The Faculty consulted with student representatives from the program about both the closure of the Environmental Toxicology specialization and the related changes to Environmental Biology. The students saw no issues with the changes and indicated other students felt the same.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Pending the approval of Academic Council this change will be included in the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar

**SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- [Major Program Modification Proposal](#)