

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 24 October 2023

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Science – Life Sciences specialization

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 Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Science - Biological Science – Life Sciences Specialization changing the program name of the specialization to Biomedical Science.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing a change of name of the Life Sciences specialization to ‘Biomedical Science.’ This specialization has been designed to meet the needs of students interested in applying to medical school or to other professional biomedical programs such as dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine or optometry. The specialization also provides a strong foundation to prepare students to write the MCAT examinations.

Through feedback and questions from potential applicants at recruiting events it became clear that our Life Science specialization name was not a clear indication of what that program actual was. The name change will better reflect the focus of this specialization on preparing students for careers in medicine and other biomedical professions. The Biological Science faculty determined this change was needed after careful evaluation of similar specializations at universities across Ontario, in order to better convey the goals

of the specialization and its carefully designed course map. We believe the new name provides clarity about the focus of this specialization on preparing students for careers in biomedical professions.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

N/A

TRANSITION PLAN:

Students currently enrolled in the Life Sciences specialization would remain with the current name in this specialization; the new name would apply to students enrolling in Fall 2024

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- Faculty Council: 6 June 2023
- Curriculum Committee: 30 May 2023

Additional consultation took place with the biological science faculty, Marketing and Communications, Admissions and Recruitment as well as feedback from prospective students at recruitment events.

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the approval of Academic Council, the changes will be included in the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Major Program Modification Proposal](#)