

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 27 February 2024

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Program Name Change – Bachelor of Science in Physics - Nanotechnology and Clean Energy 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 in Physics to rename the ‘Nanotechnology and Clean Energy’ Specialization to ‘Nanophysics’.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing to change the name of the ‘Nanotechnology and Clean Energy’ specialization to ‘Nanophysics’.

The proposed changes to the specialization explicitly indicate that the specialization belongs to the Physics program at the Ontario Tech University which should invite more prospective students interested in nanophysics, nanotechnology, and biophysics to the program.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources required.

TRANSITION PLAN:

Students currently enrolled in the Nanotechnology and Clean Energy specialization will remain with the current name in this specialization. The new name will apply to students enrolling in Fall 2024 and onward.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ FSc Curriculum Committee: 9 January 2024
- ✓ Faculty Council: 9 January 2024
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (Recommendation): 16 January 2024
- Academic Council (Approval): 27 February 2024

We found that students are interested in nanophysics at recruitment events, but they are confused by the name Nanotechnology and Clean Energy; interest in a nanophysics program has not turned into applications.

NEXT STEPS:

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

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Major Program Modification Proposal](#)