

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

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### ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation   
Decision   
Discussion/Direction   
Information

DATE: 25 February 2020

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Science in Biological Science

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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 USC, Academic Council hereby approve the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Science in Biological Science program, as presented.*

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing to change the specialization name from Biological Science - Pharmaceutical Biotechnology to Biological Science - Applied Biotechnology and to move BIOL 4041U 4th year to 3rd year. The course code will correspondingly be changed back to BIOL 3010U.

This specialization is one of the original specializations created in the early years of the Biological Science program and was intended to attract students that were interested in careers in both the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. The name of the specialization has caused confusion from the outset, because many prospective students assume it caters to students interested in becoming a pharmacist. Also, the name suggests that the program is specific to the pharmaceutical industry only, when in fact the courses in the program map cover a wide array of biotechnology-related fields. The new name will be easier to interpret and offers no false linkage with pharmacy school, more accurately reflects the broad field of biotechnology and the courses offered in the program map, and may attract more students because the name is less niche-focused.

BIOL 3010U/4010U was previously required as a part of the 3rd year and was moved to the 4th year of study to allow students an additional year learning core content before taking this advanced laboratory course. However, the nature of this course, and the techniques learned within, provide students with more skills and opportunities for application when learned at the 3rd year (i.e. can be applied to thesis research, etc.).

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

There are no financial or human resource impacts related to this change. The nature of this specialization requires a smaller cohort of students, and the Faculty does not anticipate that these changes will impact admissions beyond the current carrying capacity of the program. The hope is that current resources required/available to run the program will be optimized and better utilized.

**TRANSITION PLAN:**

Students currently in the Biological Science - Pharmaceutical Biotechnology program will graduate with the current specialization nomenclature listed on their transcript (specializations are not listed on degree parchments). Students entering the specialization as of Fall 2020 will have "Applied Biotechnology" listed on their transcript.

Current students will now require BIOL 3010U as part of their 3rd year program requirements. The Faculty will offer BIOL 3010U starting Winter 2021, and students in both 3rd and 4th year of the Pharmaceutical Biotechnology specialization will have the access to take the course. As Pharmaceutical Biotechnology is a smaller specialization, we it is not anticipated that any additional resources/sections will be required to serve a double cohort of students.

**CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:**

USC: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Faculty Council Approval: December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Curriculum Committee Approval: November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Upon the approval of Academic Council this change will be included in the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

**SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- [Major Program Modification Proposal](#)