

LSC Use Only No:	LSC Action-Date:	UWUCC USE Only No.	UWUCC Action-Date:	Senate Action Date:
		08-91	AP-4/14/09	App-4/28/09

Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Contact Person Martha Jack	Email Address mjack@iup.edu
Proposing Department/Unit Biology	Phone 724-357-2566

Check all appropriate lines and complete information as requested. Use a separate cover sheet for each course proposal and for each program proposal.

1. Course Proposals (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Prefix Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Deletion
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Number and/or Title Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog Description Change
<hr/>	
<i>Current Course prefix, number and full title</i>	<i>Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing</i>
<hr/>	
2. Additional Course Designations: check if appropriate	
<input type="checkbox"/> This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (e.g., Women's Studies, Pan-African)
<input type="checkbox"/> This course is also proposed as an Honors College Course.	
<hr/>	
3. Program Proposals	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Degree Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catalog Description Change
<input type="checkbox"/> New Minor Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Revision
<input type="checkbox"/> New Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<hr/>	
B.S. in Biology/Pre-Medical Track & B.S. in Biology/Pre-veterinary Track	<i>Proposed program name, if changing</i>
<i>Current program name</i>	
<hr/>	
4. Approvals	
Department Curriculum Committee Chair(s)	<i>Sandra Stowell</i> 3/19/09
Department Chair(s)	<i>Alton</i> 3/19/09
College Curriculum Committee Chair	<i>[Signature]</i> 04/08/09
College Dean	<i>John D. Eck</i> 04/08/09
Director of Liberal Studies *	
Director of Honors College *	
Provost *	
Additional signatures as appropriate: (include title)	
UWUCC Co-Chairs	<i>Gail Schuist</i> 4/14/09

* where applicable

Received
APR 03 2009
Liberal Studies

Part II. Description of Curriculum Change

1. Proposed catalog description

In addition to the Bachelor of Science degree with no specialization, the department also offers specialized Bachelor of Science tracks in Cell and Molecular Biology, Honors Biology, Pre-Medical Biology, and Pre-Veterinary Biology. Students who pursue the Pre-Medical or Pre-Veterinary track must maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 after their third semester in the program, in order to continue in that track. Students must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher to transfer into the Pre-Medical or Pre-Veterinary track after their third semester.

2. Summary of Changes:

The proposed change is the addition of a minimum GPA requirement for Pre-Med and Pre-Vet majors. No additional changes to the program are proposed.

Current catalog description (p. 125)

In addition to the Bachelor of Science degree with no specialization, the department also offers specialized Bachelor of Science tracks in Cell and Molecular Biology, Pre-Veterinary, Pre-Medical, and Honors Biology.

3. Rationale for instituting a minimum GPA requirement for Pre-Med and Pre-Vet majors:

At present, the Biology Department has no minimum GPA requirement for the Biology majors who pursue the Pre-Med or Pre-Vet tracks. A review of a list of the students who are currently enrolled in those tracks reveals that a large proportion of them have little or no chance of being viable applicants to a medical or veterinary school program. Consider the following: 73 of the current 111 PreMed/PreVet students (66%) have a GPA below 3.0; 58 of 111 students (52%) have a GPA below 2.5; and 30 of 111 students (27%) have a GPA below 2.0.

By establishing the requirement of a GPA of 3.0 for students to remain in the Pre-Med/Pre-Vet tracks, or to transfer into one of these tracks, this would serve to: (1) Impress upon these Biology majors that they must maintain high academic achievement in order to have any hope of being accepted to a medical or veterinary school; (2) Compel students who are not doing well enough academically (particularly in the sciences) for admission to a professional school, to reconsider their career goals. It is in their best interest to consider other options sooner rather than later; once a student has 4 or 5 semesters completed, they tend to be reluctant to change major and "lose time" on the pathway to graduation. However, it ends up being a real challenge for many of them to complete the upper level courses in the Biology curriculum and graduate. Often they do not graduate on time due to numerous repeat courses. The GPA requirement would be a step in the right direction toward guiding students with average grades (or lower) into a more appropriate major and/or track.

The designation of Pre-Med or Pre-Vet track should be reserved for only those advisees who intend to go through the Pre-Med/Pre-vet Committee interview, professional school application process, and MCAT preparation, and who therefore require the special faculty advisement on curriculum, internships, and the above-mentioned issues. Students who fall below the required GPA would have a semester of "probation" that affords them the chance to raise their GPA back into good standing. This would be beneficial to borderline students who might then focus more intently on their studies and recover their "good standing" status within the track.

4. Implementation plan:

The Department of Biology hopes to have the GPA minimum in place for the incoming freshmen class of Fall 2009. A student who falls below the minimum GPA after the third semester will be counseled by his/her academic advisor about choosing another track (or no track) within the major of Biology, or an entirely different major altogether if the science curriculum appears to be problematic and not in line with the interests or abilities of the student.

For the students who are currently enrolled in the Biology Pre-Medical or Pre-Veterinary track, a minimum GPA requirement will not be enforced; as in the past, these students will continue to be advised about the expectations of the tracks and the rigorous selection process for admission to medical or veterinary school, but the decision to remain in the track lies solely with each student.

Part II. Description of Curriculum Change

1. Proposed catalog description

B.S.-Biology

In addition to the Bachelor of Science degree with no specialization, the department also offers specialized Bachelor of Science tracks in Cell and Molecular Biology, Honors Biology, Pre-Medical Biology, and Pre-Veterinary Biology. Students who pursue the Pre-Medical or Pre-Veterinary track must maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 after their third semester in the program, in order to continue in that track. Students must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher to transfer into the Pre-Medical or Pre-Veterinary track after their third semester.

The Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Biology with no specialization is designed to provide maximum depth in the sciences and mathematics combined with flexibility in the choice of ancillary science courses. This program allows the student (in consultation with the advisor) to select a suite of ancillary science and mathematics courses that is most appropriate to the student's specific interests within the field of biology. With proper selections from among ancillary science courses, a student could minor in any of the following: Biochemistry, Chemistry, Geoscience, or Applied Statistics. Furthermore, with proper selection of free electives, a student could minor in either Mathematics or Physics.

2. Summary of Changes:

The proposed change is the addition of a minimum GPA requirement for Pre-Med and Pre-Vet majors. No additional changes to the program are proposed.

Current catalog description (p. 125)

B.S.-Biology

In addition to the Bachelor of Science degree with no specialization, the department also offers specialized Bachelor of Science tracks in Cell and Molecular Biology, Pre-Veterinary, Pre-Medical, and Honors Biology.

The Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Biology with no specialization is designed to provide maximum depth in the sciences and mathematics combined with flexibility in the choice of ancillary science courses. This program allows the student (in consultation with the advisor) to select a suite of ancillary science and mathematics courses that is most appropriate to the student's specific interests within the field of biology. With proper selections from among ancillary science courses, a student could minor in any of the following: Biochemistry, Chemistry, Geoscience, or Applied Statistics. Furthermore, with proper selection of free electives, a student could minor in either Mathematics or Physics.

3. Rationale for instituting a minimum GPA requirement for Pre-Med and Pre-Vet majors:

At present, the Biology Department has no minimum GPA requirement for the Biology majors who pursue the Pre-Med or Pre-Vet tracks. A review of a list of the students who are currently enrolled in those tracks reveals that a large proportion of them have little or no chance of being viable applicants to a medical or veterinary school program. Students accepted into medical schools generally have at least 3.4 GPA, and students accepted into veterinary school generally have at least 3.6 GPA. Consider the following:

73 of the current 111 PreMed/PreVet students (66%) have a GPA below 3.0.

58 of 111 students (52%) have a GPA below 2.5.

30 of 111 students (27%) have a GPA below 2.0.

By establishing the requirement of a GPA of 3.0 for students to remain in the Pre-Med/Pre-Vet tracks, or to transfer into one of these tracks, this would serve to: (1) Impress upon these Biology majors that they must maintain high academic achievement in order to have any hope of being accepted to a medical or veterinary school; (2) Compel students who are not doing well enough academically (particularly in the sciences) for admission to a professional school, to reconsider their career goals. It is in their best interest to consider other options sooner rather than later; once a student has 4 or 5 semesters completed, they tend to be reluctant to change major and "lose time" on the pathway to graduation. However, it ends up being a real challenge for many of them to complete the upper level courses in the Biology curriculum and graduate. Often they do not graduate on time due to numerous repeat courses. The GPA requirement would be a step in the right direction toward guiding students with average grades (or lower) into a more appropriate major and/or track.

The designation of Pre-Med or Pre-Vet track should be reserved for only those advisees who intend to go through the Pre-Med/Pre-vet Committee interview, professional school application process, and MCAT preparation, and who therefore require the special faculty advisement on curriculum, internships, and the above-mentioned issues.

Students who fall below the required GPA would have a semester of “probation” that affords them the chance to raise their GPA back into good standing. This would be beneficial to borderline students who might then focus more intently on their studies and recover their “good standing” status within the track.

Other professional programs at IUP also have minimum GPA requirements. For example, students in the Bachelor of Science in Education – Biology are required to have a GPA of 2.75 or better in biology and education courses to be eligible for student teaching and certification. Similarly, all education students must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA overall to be able to student teach.

4. Implementation plan:

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For the students who are currently enrolled in the Biology Pre-Medical or Pre-Veterinary track, a minimum GPA requirement will not be enforced; as in the past, these students will continue to be advised about the expectations of the tracks and the rigorous selection process for admission to medical or veterinary school, but the decision to remain in the track lies solely with each student.