

FS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
REPORT – JANUARY 19, 2012

Members of the Curriculum Committee were asked to consider one proposal from the College of Science: Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry.

Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry

This degree is designed to train students in the San Antonio and south Texas area in Biochemistry. The degree is considered a gateway degree to professional and graduate or as terminal degree for individuals who will work for the large biomedical industry of San Antonio. This degree will be administered by the Department of Chemistry.

Job Market

According to a report from BioMedSA, the Healthcare and Bioscience industry contributed \$16.3 billion to the San Antonio economy in 2007, and its economic impact was \$14.5 billion in 2009. This economic sector employs one out of six San Antonians. Texas' biotechnology marketplace is estimated to have an annual state economic impact of at least \$75 billion. This degree will serve as both a gateway and a terminal degree for this economic sector.

Student Demand

There are limited local biochemistry degree programs. Trinity University offers a B.S. in Biochemistry and the UTHSC-SA offers only a Ph.D. in biochemistry. The bioscience area will continue to grow, and local students will need to leave the area for training in this area at a public institution.

Degree Requirements and Curriculum

The proposed degree requires 120 semester credit hours (SCH). In addition to the core curriculum, students must complete 33 hours in general science and mathematics, 23 hours in required science courses, 19 hours in core biochemistry requirements, and 12 prescribed electives. The curriculum is deemed appropriate for the Biochemistry major as established by the American Chemical Society and Federation for American Scientist in Experimental biology. The program will be reviewed on a five-year cycle as required for all UTSA degree programs.

Faculty requirements

One new faculty member is required, an enzymologist/analytical biochemist. However, this position was approved in 2010, but the search was unsuccessful at the time. In addition, an administrative assistant is needed on a part-time basis (50%).

After a thorough review of the proposal, twelve of the thirteen members of the committee recommended approval of the program. One member did not respond.

Be it resolved that the proposal for a B.S. in Biochemistry be approved.