Degree Change Request
(Maximum 5 pages)

Current Degree: ___________ B.A. ___________ Proposed Degree: ___________ B.S. ___________

Proposed Effective Date: ___________ Fall 2018 ___________

Justification
Describe the need for the change.

One goal of the faculty and administration at UH-Hilo is to provide our Chemistry graduates with the best possible chance at employment or admission to graduate or professional schools. We believe a change in designation of our current program from a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.), with no change in curriculum, is the foundation of this goal and we fully support this student-driven request.

In 2013, students began to inquire why our chemistry degree was only a B.A. and not a B.S. They felt that the Chemistry degree is just as rigorous and requires as many courses as some of the B.S. degrees offered at UH-Hilo, such as Astronomy, Marine Science, and Biology. In fact, our current degree is comparable to UH-Mānoa (see Appendix 1) as well as other B.S. programs across the country. We wish to change student’s perception that the current B.A. degree is deficient or less rigorous, when in fact it is a fully rigorous chemistry degree worthy of a B.S. designation.

An external review report of our program in the fall of 2014 stated that the absence of a B.S. degree option was a deterrent to students choosing to major in chemistry; the reviewer stated that our current program is mislabeled as a B.A. and he suggested a degree change to a B.S. designation should be a top priority for UH-Hilo. In 2015, steps were taken to implement this change beginning with approval by UH-Hilo’s Faculty Congress on November 11, 2015 and the VCAA’s office on December 21, 2015.

Curriculum

• Compare and contrast the existing degree with the desired degree (i.e, B.A. vs. B.S.)

    The curriculum will remain the same; no new courses will be added and no courses will be removed.

• Will course requirements change? Please describe.

    Course requirements will not change.

• Are there similar programs within the UH System?

    UH Mānoa currently offers both a B.A. and B.S. in Chemistry.
Accreditation

• Is the program professionally accredited?

    Our program is not accredited by the American Chemical Society due to its small size.

• If so, have you consulted with the accrediting agency? Please discuss.

    We have not consulted with the accrediting agency.

• Will the new degree receive professional accreditation? If so, what is the timeline?

    There is no plan to apply for accreditation.

• Is the proposed change related to recommendations from a recent accreditation review? If so, explain.

    This request is not related to a recent accreditation review.

• Will the proposed degree change require a WSCUC/WASC ACCJC Substantive Change Review?

    This change in designation from B.A. to B.S. will not require a WSCUC/WASC ACCJC Substantive Change Review.

Impact on Current Students

• What effect do you anticipate the degree change will have on program enrollment?

    We anticipate a small increase in our enrollment since earning a B.S. will provide an added incentive for our students in their quest for employment or admission to graduate or professional school.

• Have current students been consulted?

    Yes, our students have been consulted.

• If so, how many of current students would rather receive the new degree than the existing degree?

    100% of all students consulted would rather receive the new B.S. degree than the existing B.A. degree. They believe this will help them attain their future goals, whatever they may be.

• Will the proposed change affect financial aid availability for current students?

    The change from B.A. to B.S. will not affect financial aid availability for our students.
Discuss teach-out plans for the existing degree program.

Upon approval of the B.S. degree designation, it is our plan to enact a 6-year stop out of the B.A. in Chemistry. Students entering UH Hilo in Fall 2018 and in future years will enter on the new B.S. degree and existing students will be given the opportunity to elect to the new B.S. option (see Timeline section) or complete in the B.A. option if desired. Upon completion of the stop out UH Hilo plans to terminate the B.A. in Chemistry.

Costs

• Are there costs associated with changing the degree? If so, will the department or college cover the costs involved?

There are no costs associated for the degree change.

Consultation

• Have faculty members in the department been consulted on the proposed change?

All of the faculty in the Chemistry Department have been consulted on the proposed change and are unanimous in their support for the degree change.

• Are faculty members in support of the change?

The UH-Hilo faculty as a whole supports the degree change as indicated by approval by our Faculty Congress.

Timeline

Please discuss your proposed timeline. Include plans to update the catalog, STAR, and recruitment materials, and proposed timeline to stop-out admission and terminate the current degree program.

June 2018: Anticipated BOR Approval

Updates to Catalog:
Will be completed within 2 weeks of the anticipated BOR approval date. The UH Hilo catalog is primarily an online catalog and changes can be implemented immediately.

Updates to STAR:
Will be completed prior to start of the Fall 2018 term. The UH Hilo STAR Coordinator will be notified as soon as possible following approval to amend the Fall 2018 STAR planner to change the degree designation. Students who were admitted for the Fall 2018 catalog that declared Chemistry as a major will automatically be switched over to the new designation.
Recruitment Materials:
Brochures, pamphlets, and websites describing the Chemistry program will be updated by replacing the B.A. designation with the new B.S. designation.

Program Coding, Stop Out, Termination of Existing BA-CHEM:
Upon approval the program code of BS-CHEM will be requested from system IRAO. At the same time, we will also request to enact a 6-year stop out of admission to the BA-CHEM effective from Fall 2018- Summer 2025. Upon completion of the stop out period, the BA-CHEM will be terminated.

Current Student Opt In:
Current declared B.A. Chemistry students will be given a two-year period from the date of BOR approval of the B.S. degree (Fall 2018-Summer 2020) to elect to opt up to the Fall 2018 catalog and become a declared B.S. Chemistry major on the Fall 2018 catalog. The VCAA office and the Office of the Registrar have worked out a process for these students that is specific to this degree change. Outside of this period, current B.A. students also have the option to declare the B.S. degree option at the time of graduation using their graduating catalog year.
## Appendix 1

Comparison of Chemistry Degree program requirements at UH-Manoa and UH-Hilo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UH-Manoa Chemistry B.S.</th>
<th>UH-Hilo Chemistry B.A.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 161/161L (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 162/162L (4)</td>
<td>CHEM 162/162L (4)</td>
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<td>CHEM 272/272L (5)</td>
<td>CHEM 241/241L (4)</td>
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<td>CHEM 273/273L (4)</td>
<td>CHEM 242/242L (4)</td>
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<td>CHEM 425/425L (5)</td>
<td>CHEM 320 (3)</td>
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<td>CHEM 274/274L (5)</td>
<td>CHEM 274/274L (5)</td>
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<td>CHEM 351 (3)</td>
<td>CHEM 351/351L (4)</td>
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<td>CHEM 352/352L (4)</td>
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<td>CHEM 427 (3)</td>
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<td>CHEM 431/431L (4)</td>
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<td>CHEM 495A/495B (2)</td>
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<td>CHEM 445/445L (2)</td>
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<td>CHEM Upper Level Elective (3)</td>
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<td>BIOL 171/171L (4)</td>
<td>BIOL 171/171L (4)</td>
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<td>BIOL 172/172L (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 275/275L (4)</td>
<td>BIOL 270 (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 372 or BIOC 441 (3)</td>
<td>BIOL 410 (3)</td>
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<td>MATH 241/242 (8)</td>
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<td>MATH 243 (3)</td>
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<td>PHYS 170/170L (5)</td>
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<td>PHYS 272/272L (4)</td>
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**Total Courses = 31**  **Total Courses = 33**

**Total Credit Hours = 74**  **Total Credit Hours = 76**