

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
Academic Senate

Resolution on Changes to the Marine Biology Emphasis of the B.S. in Biology

#09-11/12-ICC – December 6, 2011

Resolved: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends to the Provost that the changes to the Marine Biology Emphasis of the B.S. in Biology described in curriculum forms 10-365, 10-366, and 11-179 be approved (see below), and be it further

Resolved: That the program, the Dean, and the Provost shall negotiate appropriate benchmarks for the program.

Rationale: *The Biology program is working towards a proposal to elevate the current Marine Biology Emphasis to a stand-alone Major. Making these changes requires Chancellor's Office approval, and thus will take at least another year. As an interim measure, the Academic Master Planning Subcommittee suggested that the department could implement the curricular changes associated with the new Major as changes to the existing Marine Biology Emphasis. When the Chancellor's Office approves the new Major, we will make smaller changes that will elevate this Emphasis to a Major.*

Current enrollment in the Emphasis is over 200 students, with only about 20 graduating each year. The program has no desire to increase its enrollment. Instead, the changes to the curriculum are designed to increase student success and retention, to increase integration with other marine programs on campus, and to allow the program to give students a research experience in a less costly and more effective format. The program has proposed a graduation target of 35 graduates each year.

The following curriculum proposals are available on the ICC SharePoint site:

10-365: BIOL 498: Marine Biology Capstone Rsrch – New Course Proposal

10-366: BIOL 255: Marine Biology – New Course Proposal

11-179: Biology: Marine Biology emphasis – The Biology program has submitted a proposal to elevate the emphasis in Marine Biology to a stand-alone major. This proposal will need Chancellor's Office approval – a year(s)-long process. In the meantime, the department wishes to revise their emphasis' curriculum to correspond to the curriculum that is in the new Major proposal. The changes are as follows:

Lower Division:

- Add a new course, BIOL 255 Marine Biology, to serve as an anchor for the curriculum, and aid in retention of majors.

Upper Division:

- Remove BIOL 412 Bacteriology from the list of required courses, making it an option with BIOL 410, ZOOL 310, or BOT 310.
- Replace requirement for "An additional course in vertebrate zoology or ZOOL 430 Comparative Animal Behavior" with FISH 310, Ichthyology, in order to give more background on fishes, the dominant marine vertebrates, and to make advanced Fisheries courses available to students in the program.

- Give students the option of taking OCN 310 Biological Oceanography in place of BIOL 430 Intertidal Ecology, in order to allow them to pursue an interest in open-ocean ecosystems, and to take advanced Oceanography courses.
- Add an optional new course, BIOL 498 Marine Biology Capstone Seminar, to provide a directed research experience to students in a group setting, rather than the individual projects that occur under the existing BIOL 499 and BIOL 490. This will reduce the workload on faculty advisers while still providing the research experience we consider essential to training in marine biology.
- Add a requirement for an advanced marine biology elective, to give students more choice in how they structure their major.

The net result of these changes is to add 3 units to the major, raising it from a total of 114 to 117 units.

Academic Senate: Passed Unanimously, 12/06/11

Provost Snyder: Approved, 12/12/11