



NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORM

Sponsoring Institution(s): Lindenwood University

Program Title: Biological Sciences

Degree/Certificate: Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Environmental Biology

Options: Click here to enter text.

Delivery Site(s): St. Charles Campus, St. Charles MO

CIP Classification: 260101

*CIP code can be cross-referenced with programs offered in your region on MDHE's program inventory highered.mo.gov/ProgramInventory/search.jsp

Implementation Date: 2015 here to enter text.

Cooperative Partners: Click here to enter text.

*If this is a collaborative program, form CL must be included with this proposal

AUTHORIZATION:

Dr. James Evans, President

Name/Title of Institutional Officer

James Evans
Signature

12-18-14
Date

Dr. Greg Anderson

Person to Contact for More Information

636-949-4122

Telephone



STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Year	1	2	3	4	5
Full Time	10	5	5	4	3
Part Time	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	5	5	4	3

Please provide a rationale regarding how student enrollment projections were calculated:

Projections are based on recent faculty cuts (a 15% reduction in staff) in the Department of Biological Sciences which will reduce the ability to sustain prior levels in the program. As a result of these cuts we expect the program enrollment numbers to level off or decline in the near future and return to the previous levels seen in 2011. Due to the reduced usefulness of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Biology, most students were being advised to pursue the proposed Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology degree. Due to staffing reductions the development of this new degree program is no longer feasible and will not be offered in the foreseeable future. Enrollment numbers in this program had been growing, with 14 fulltime students in 2011 to 18 students in 2013 (a 28.5% increase), but numbers dropped by 55% in 2014 to 10 students, with many of those students opting to wait for the now postponed development of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology option. These students will now likely opt for other degrees such as the BS in Biological Sciences with an Emphasis in Ecology and Evolution.

Provide a rationale for proposing this program, including evidence of market demand and societal need supported by research:

This minor change in the program essentially increases the required curriculum by only one course in the major and reduces the number of required electives by one course. It provides a more in depth education in the General Biology course sequence which enhances student understanding of upper level courses required for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Biology. This modification will not require any substantial changes in the Department but will, at the same time, provide a better foundation which will improve the success and educational goals and ambitions of the student. This enhanced curriculum should be attractive to a larger number of potential undergraduates.

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PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS AND PERFORMANCE GOALS

Institution Name Lindenwood University
Program Name BA in Environmental Biology
Date 16 December, 2014

(Although all of the following guidelines may not be applicable to the proposed program, please carefully consider the elements in each area and respond as completely as possible in the format below. Quantification of performance goals should be included wherever possible.)

1. Student Preparation

- Any special admissions procedures or student qualifications required for this program which exceed regular university admissions, standards, e.g., ACT score, completion of core curriculum, portfolio, personal interview, etc. Please note if no special preparation will be required.
No special requirements above those required for admission to the University are required for students pursuing this degree program.
- Characteristics of a specific population to be served, if applicable.
Biology majors that intend to pursue a career in the environment, or working for non-profit environmental organizations are the primary target population. A Bachelor of Arts degree in the sciences is generally less appealing to most serious applicants and prior to recent cuts in faculty staffing, a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Environmental Biology was planned which would have been more valuable and attractive to potential students. Unfortunately, plans for that degree program are on indefinite hold.

2. Faculty Characteristics

- Any special requirements (degree status, training, etc.) for assignment of teaching for this degree/certificate.
All fulltime faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences must have a terminal degree (Ph.D) in their field.
- Estimated percentage of credit hours that will be assigned to full time faculty. Please use the term "full time faculty" (and not FTE) in your descriptions here.
One hundred percent of the Biological Science (BSC) required courses in the major and those numbered above 200 will be assigned to full time faculty.
- Expectations for professional activities, special student contact, teaching/learning innovation.

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Faculty are expected to maintain currency in their field, and update coursework and labs as needed. Small class sizes and labs taught by the lecture instructor ensures close contact with students to maximize their educational experience.

3. Enrollment Projections

- Student FTE majoring in program by the end of five years.
Student enrollment in this program have generally been low due to the fewer number of opportunities for students with a BA degree in the sciences, but numbers were growing. In 2011 there were 14 majors in this program which grew to 18 majors by 2013 (a 28.5% increase), but numbers dropped to only 10 students in 2014 (a decline of 55.5%) due to a number of students anticipating the development of the now defunct Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology degree program. Unfortunately, the recent 15% reduction in faculty staffing levels in the Department of Biological Sciences and subsequent postponement of the BS degree will likely result in an even further reduction from current enrollment levels back to lower levels last seen in 2011.
- Percent of full time and part time enrollment by the end of five years.
One hundred percent of our students are full time, we currently have no part time students enrolled and have not had any for at least the last 5 years.

4. Student and Program Outcomes

- Number of graduates per annum at three and five years after implementation.
Over the last 5 years, the number of graduates has ranged from a low of 0, to a high of 5. Based on projected reduced enrollment combined with lower staffing levels, we expect graduate numbers to revert back to previous lower numbers of graduates in three years, and stabilize at those lower levels at the five year mark.
- Special skills specific to the program.
N/A
- Proportion of students who will achieve licensing, certification, or registration.
N/A
- Performance on national and/or local assessments, e.g., percent of students scoring above the 50th percentile on normed tests; percent of students achieving minimal cut-scores on criterion-referenced tests. Include expected results on assessments of general education and on exit assessments in a particular discipline as well as the name of any nationally recognized assessments used.
Data not tracked by institution.

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- Placement rates in related fields, in other fields, unemployed.
Data not tracked by institution.
- Transfer rates, continuous study.
Data not tracked by institution.

5. Program Accreditation

- Institutional plans for accreditation, if applicable, including accrediting agency and timeline. **If there are no plans to seek specialized accreditation, please provide a rationale.**

There is no accreditation agency for Biology Programs. The University is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

6. Alumni and Employer Survey

- Expected satisfaction rates for alumni, *including timing and method of surveys*.
Data not tracked by institution.
- Expected satisfaction rates for employers, including timing and method of surveys.
Data not tracked by institution.

7. Institutional Characteristics

- Characteristics demonstrating why your institution is particularly well-equipped to support the program.

This is only a minor modification to a successful program and Department that has been well established for many decades and has an outstanding track record at Lindenwood University.