



## Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

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To: Provost Dr. Susan Henrichs  
Through: Dr. Paul Layer, Dean, CNSM  
From: Dr. Bill Simpson, Chemistry and Biochemistry Chair  
Cc: Jayne Harvie, Coordinator, Faculty Senate Office

*Approved/ Susan Henrichs 3/11/14*

*[Signature]*

Subject: Masters of Science program reorganizations

As a result of our Spring 2013 department retreat, we decided to reorganize the three M.S. programs that are within the Chemistry and Biochemistry department. Specifically, we seek to and have submitted paperwork to Faculty Senate for the following actions:

**Under the Chemistry M.A. and M.S. program:**

- Add two concentrations to the M.S.:
  - Biochemistry and Neuroscience
  - Environmental Chemistry

**Under Environmental Chemistry program:**

- Retain the Ph.D.
- Suspend admissions to the M.S. and direct students to use the Chemistry M.S. / Environmental concentration instead

**Under the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology program:**

- Change the program name to Biochemistry and Neuroscience
- Retain the Ph.D.
- Suspend admissions to the M.S. and direct students to use the Chemistry M.S. / Biochemistry and Neuroscience concentration instead.

The net result of these actions is to “unify” our three M.S. degrees to be one M.S. degree, which will have a larger student flow and thus be more easily assessable. Procedures (*e.g.* comprehensive examinations, committee meeting procedures, assessment, etc.) for each of the separate M.S. degrees were already similar, but with this change, they would all be the same, allowing us to present information more easily to new students. Additionally, unification of the M.S. degrees may increase collaborative opportunities for faculty in the department, who would now share more common ground through this unified M.S. program.

The department still sees the areas of Biochemistry and Neuroscience and Environmental Chemistry as principal focal areas and the Ph.D. programs that we have in these two areas would continue to be our most advanced degrees. Most active research is in these areas, so it is likely that most graduate students will take the new M.S. concentrations. These M.S. degrees lead to high demand jobs in Environmental Chemistry, Neuroscience, and Biomedical areas.

With this memo, we request to suspend admissions and not list the M.S. in Biochemistry and Neuroscience (new name) and the M.S. in Environmental Chemistry the catalog. Students would be directed to take the M.S. Chemistry concentrations of the same name instead. If we find that this new plan is working in a couple of years, we will formally request to eliminate the M.S. programs that have been replaced by concentrations under the M.S. Chemistry.