

July 2, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Mark Zoran, Chair, Graduate Council

Through: Dr. Bhanu Chowdhary, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies

Through: Dr. C. Jane Welsh, Chair, College Graduate Instruction Committee, Professor, Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences

From: Dr. Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni, Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences

Subject: Low producing degrees – Consolidation

Approved by GC. 8-21-12
Mark J. Zoran
Chair, GC.

Bhanu Chowdhary

Jane Welsh

Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni

While the Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health disciplines are critically important to the State of Texas and the country as a whole, they are inherently small disciplines. Therefore, because of the relatively low numbers of students enrolled in the M.S. (Epidemiology) and M.S. (Veterinary Public Health) curriculum (14 over the last 5 years), the university proposes a consolidation of the two M.S. degree programs. The new degree title would be M.S. in Veterinary Public Health-Epidemiology and would be housed under the current CIP code used by the two programs being consolidated (51.2510). We believe that this degree program will serve the needs of veterinarians wishing to go into some aspects of government service, military veterinary personnel seeking advanced training in public health, and students with a career goal of academia or research.

The newly formed degree would allow for 3 tracks (epidemiology, food safety and security, and public health and policy) and would offer both a thesis and non-thesis option for all tracks. By consolidating the two programs, no additional coursework would be required. The required coursework, for the newly formed degree program, is currently utilized in the Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences (with emphasis in epidemiology) degree program as well as graduate programs in other disciplines (see attached proposed degree requirements for the M.S. in Veterinary Public Health-Epidemiology as well as the Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences with an emphasis in Epidemiology). Most importantly, no additional cost would be associated with combining (or maintaining) the M.S. in Veterinary Public Health-Epidemiology program.

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Teach-out Plan

Master of Science in Veterinary Public Health
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Texas A&M University

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Substantive Change for Accredited Institutions of the Commission of Colleges (Page 21).

1. Date of closure.
August 31, 2012

2. An explanation of how affected parties (students, faculty, staff) will be informed of the impending closure.

An email will be sent out by the Assistant to the Department Head to all affected parties outlining the impending consolidation of the M.S. (Epidemiology) and M.S. (Veterinary Public Health) degree programs into the M.S. (Veterinary Public Health-Epidemiology) program. In addition, all advisors of students currently enrolled in either the M.S. (Epidemiology) or M.S. (Veterinary Public Health) program will be asked to discuss programmatic changes, with their students, on a one-on-one basis. No required changes to the degree plans of students currently enrolled in either the M.S. (Epidemiology) or M.S. (Veterinary Public Health) program are anticipated.

3. An explanation of how students will be helped to complete their programs of study with minimal disruption or additional expense.

See above

4. Signed copies of teach-out agreements with other institutions, if any.

N/A

5. How faculty and staff will be redeployed or helped to find new employment

N/A

6. If closing an institution, arrangement for the storing of student records, disposition of final financial resources and other assets

N/A

Teach-out Plan

Master of Science in Epidemiology
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Texas A&M University

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N/A

LOW-PRODUCING RESPONSE INFORMATION SHEET

The following information is provided in connection with recent action(s) taken by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and reported to your institution in a letter from MacGregor M. Stephenson on June 8, 2012.

ACTION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

On June 8, 2012, the Coordinating Board staff completed their review of Texas A&M University's response to the FY2007-2011 Annual Report of Low-Producing programs. The following actions have been taken.

UPDATED June 19, 2012

Degree Program Phase-Outs			
Degree Title	Program Name	CIP Code	Phase-Out Date
MAGR	Plant Sciences	01.1101.00	August 31, 2016 August 31, 2012
MS	Forestry	03.0501.00	August 31, 2016 August 31, 2012
BA	American Studies	05.0102.00	August 31, 2019 August 31, 2012
MED	Physical Education	13.1314.00	August 31, 2016 August 31, 2012
MED/MS	Educational Psychology-Career Development Education	13.1320.00	August 31, 2016 August 31, 2012
MS	Zoology	26.0701.00	August 31, 2016 August 31, 2012

Degree Program Created by Consolidation					
Degree Title	Program Name	CIP Code	Minimum SCH	Effective Date*	
MS	Veterinary Public Health-Epidemiology	51.2510.00	36	June 8, 2012	
Degree Programs Phased-out by Consolidation					
Degree Title	Program Name	CIP Code	Closure Date	Consolidated Program	
				Degree Title	Program Name
MS	Epidemiology	51.2510.00	August 31, 2016 August 31, 2012	MS	Veterinary Public Health-Epidemiology
MS	Veterinary Public Health	51.2510.00	August 31, 2016 August 31, 2012		

* Start date for consolidated programs will be the start date of the oldest existing program. Graduates of consolidated programs will be combined with the graduates of the newly consolidated program in future Low-Producing Reports. Continue to report graduates in the programs being phased out under the current CIP Code until the closure date.

Temporary Exemption Approved			
Degree Title	Program Name	CIP Code	Expiration Date
MS	Veterinary Public Health-Epidemiology	51.2510.00	August 31, 2015

Notes:

These changes will affect the way your institution reports courses, programs, and degrees to the Coordinating Board. Please inform the appropriate reporting personnel of these changes.

If you have any questions about this action or about your institution's program inventory, please contact:

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