


January 5<sup>th</sup> 2016

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GRADUATE STUDIES


**Memorandum**

TO: Faculty Senate   
Texas A&M University

THROUGH: Graduate Council  
Texas A&M University

THROUGH: Dr. Karen Butler-Purry   
Associate Provost  
Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Studies

THROUGH: Dr. Robert Burghardt   
Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies  
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

FROM: Dr. Roger Smith III   
Interim Head  
Department of Veterinary Pathobiology  
*acting dept head for Roger Smith III*

SUBJECT: Elimination of the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Veterinary Pathobiology

The Department of Veterinary Pathobiology is requesting the elimination of the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Veterinary Pathobiology. This request comes from the faculty within the department, and was voted upon November 7th, 2015. The decision was made to fold our degrees into the broader college Biomedical Sciences degree program. By doing so, we anticipate building a stronger graduate program in collaboration with the college and other departments in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

The Teach-Out Plan for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Veterinary Pathobiology is attached.



Adapted from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Substantive Change for Accredited Institutions of the Commission of Colleges.

1. Date of program closure. **Fall 2016**

2. An explanation of how affected parties (students, faculty, staff) will be informed of the impending closure. Departmental faculty discussed the state of the departmental programs at several faculty meetings in 2015 and online discussions. The Graduate Faculty took a vote and decided to eliminate the programs.

Students in the program will be called to a meeting to discuss the future of the Biomedical Sciences degree program into which they will move. The students in VTPB will be assured that all quality control efforts for the departmental training they receive will remain in place while the college Biomedical Sciences program gains structure.

As has always been the case, students admitted into the college Biomedical Sciences program wanting to be mentored by VTPB faculty must gain additional admission into the department via vote of the Graduate Admissions Committee. No new students will be recruited directly to the VTPB degrees for 2016.

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

There are no changes in courses offered now or in the future because of this change.

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**

7. Please provide the following additional information:

- a. How many students are currently enrolled in the program? **Total of 57 students**
- b. Projected graduation date for the last student(s) in the program? **Spring 2019**

NOTE: If students will not be moved to another program, you will need to extend the program closure date in order to continue to award degrees to current students under the existing program. **They will move to BIMS.**