

# **Special Consideration Items**

March 27, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Mark Zoran  
Chair, Graduate Council

Through: Dr. David Wm. Reed *David Wm. Reed*  
Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Faculty Development

From: Dr. David Wm. Reed *David Wm. Reed*  
Chair, College Graduate Program Council

Subject: Low producing degrees – Termination and Teach-out Plan

The respective departments request termination and/or Teach-out of the following low producing degrees.

Master of Agriculture in Plant Science

As per the attached Memo from the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology

- The department requests immediate termination of the degree.
- There are not current students majoring in the degree.
- There are no plans to recruit future majors in the degree.

Master of Science in Forestry

As per the attached Memo and Teach-out Plan from the Department of Ecosystems Science and Management

- The department requests a phased-out termination of the degree in August 2015.
- Currently, there are nine graduate students majoring in the degree.
- Attached is the Time-out plan to terminate the degree in 2015. This will allow sufficient time for the current students to either complete the degree or transfer to another degree.
- Effective immediately, no new students will be accepted into the degree.

*Approved by GC:*  
*[Signature]*  
*4-25-12*

## **Teach-out Plan**

### **Master of Science in Forestry College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Texas A&M University**

SACS COC Substantive Change for Accredited Institutions of the Commission of Colleges  
Page 21.

1. Date of closure

2015

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

Currently, there are nine graduate students in the program. They all have been informed of the termination of the degree effective 2015, which will allow sufficient time for all current students to complete their degree requirements.. The students are aware that they can either complete the degree by 2015 or change of another major in the department, such as Rangeland Ecology and Management.

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

There will be no disruption to the current students. Their Graduate Advisory Committee will remain the same, and they will complete the degree plan and thesis proposal they have on file with the Office of Graduate Studies.

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

There are no agreements with other institutions.

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

All faculty will remain the same and there will be no redeployment. The Department will maintain their current graduate program with MS and PhD degrees offered in Rangeland Ecology and Management.

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

There will be no institution closing.

**March 8, 2012**

Dr. Alan Sams  
Executive Associate Dean  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Texas A&M University  
600 John Kimbrough Boulevard, Suite 515  
2402 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-2402

Dear Dr. Sams:

We received your email that the Coordinating Board plans to terminate the MAGR degree in Plant Science offered through the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology because it was identified as a low-producing degree.

The Plant Pathology and Microbiology Department agrees that this degree should be terminated. We have not and will not recruit any students into this program.

If you need any other information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Leland S. Pierson III  
Department Head  
Plant Pathology and Microbiology



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND LIFE SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ECOSYSTEM  
SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

**March 7, 2012**

Dr. Alan Sams  
Executive Associate Dean  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Texas A&M University  
600 John Kimbrough Boulevard, Suite 515  
2402 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-2402

Dear Dr. Sams:

We received your e-mail indicating that the Coordinating Board plans to terminate the M.S. degree in Forestry offered through the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management because it has been identified as a low-producing program.

The ESSM Department agrees that this graduate degree program should be phased out. We will no longer recruit any new students into this program effective immediately. However, we do have nine Forestry M.S. students in progress, and we would like to "grandfather" these students who are expecting to receive their degrees in forestry.

Therefore, we ask that our M.S. Forestry degree program be allowed to continue through August of 2015 to ensure that these existing students have time to finish their degrees. During this time, no new students will be permitted to enroll in that degree program.

If you need any other information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Boutton  
Associate Department Head for Graduate Programs

CC: Steve Whisenant

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