

**TOPIC:                    PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN  
                              BIOCHEMISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO,  
                              COLORADO SPRINGS**

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## **I.        SUMMARY**

The University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) has submitted a program proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry. These two degrees respond to the developing national trend of a singular major in Biochemistry. Both the BA and BS in Biochemistry are within the purview of the role and mission as they both strengthen the existing Chemistry program and fulfill student demand.

## **II.        BACKGROUND**

The following is summarized from the UCCS program proposal:

The chemistry curriculum places an emphasis on specialized science classes and research, thus faculty believe that a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry or, with more breadth of study, a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry are appropriate degrees. The BA and BS programs proposed are rather distinct. The BA is designed with the pre-professional student in mind, who may want to select from additional biology and other courses to complete the degree requirements. The BS program is more specific to biochemistry and is designed with the professional biochemist in mind.

### **ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT**

The BA/BS in Biochemistry degree supports the role and mission of UCCS. The statutory mission states:

*The Colorado Springs campus of the University of Colorado shall be a comprehensive baccalaureate university with selective admission standards. The Colorado Springs campus shall offer liberal arts, sciences, business, engineering, health sciences and teacher preparation undergraduate degree programs, and a selected number of master's and doctoral degree programs  
C.R.S. 23-20-101(1)(c).*

### **EVIDENCE OF DEMAND**

From a national and state perspective, biochemistry represents one of the most rapidly growing majors among institutions of higher education. Most institutions that offer both chemistry and biochemistry majors have more biochemistry majors than chemistry

majors. This reflects a strong emphasis currently in developments and opportunities in the field of biochemistry.

#### **DUPLICATION/SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE STATE**

The UCCS Chemistry Department sees the new programs as serving a diverse group of students from Southern Colorado and providing degrees that are responsive to the needs of the students, the community and the state of Colorado. While every four-year institution in Colorado offers a Chemistry Degree, the same is not true for Biochemistry. Yet more students have an interest in biochemistry than in chemistry. Among state-operated campuses that offer biochemistry degrees, Adams State, CU-Boulder, and CSU-Fort Collins are the only three, and CSU is the only campus contributing significant numbers of BS graduates in Biochemistry. Other campuses have options in biochemistry, including CSU Pueblo, UNC and others. The UCCS programs will be unique in the state by offering both BA and BS degree programs in Biochemistry.

The UCCS Chemistry Department sees the new programs as serving a diverse group of students from Southern Colorado and providing degrees that are responsive to the needs of the students, the community and the state of Colorado. While every four-year institution in Colorado offers a degree in Chemistry, not many offer Biochemistry. Yet more students have an interest in biochemistry than in chemistry. And while CSU-Pueblo, the University of Northern Colorado, and a few other schools offer concentrations in Biochemistry, Adams State, CU-Boulder and CSU-Fort Collins are the only other schools that offer a degree in Biochemistry. The UCCS program will be unique in the state by offering both BA and BS degree programs in Biochemistry.

#### **III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

The Department staff has reviewed this proposed program to ensure that it meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. §23-5-129(6) (b). The program meets all performance measures set forth by the state.

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Staff recommends that the Commission approve the BA and BS degrees in Biochemistry to be offered by the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.**

#### **V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs office and are available upon request

#### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. §23-5-129(6) (b)

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