

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
FERMENTATION SCIENCE AT COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

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FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

I. SUMMARY

This consent item recommends approval for Colorado State University (CSU) to offer a Bachelor of Science in Fermentation Science.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from CSU's proposal:

Understanding the processes and learning the methods involved in the production of fermented foods and beverages requires a unique set of knowledge and skills. Well-educated professionals are needed in fermentation science to meet the growing demands of the industry. CSU has provided valuable support for the food, brewing and wine industries, and is in an excellent position to move forward and assume a key role in providing the education needed for our graduates to be successful in this growing area of science and production.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports CSU's statutory role and mission, which states in part:

*There is hereby established a university at Fort Collins to be known as Colorado state university. Colorado state university shall be a comprehensive graduate research university with selective admission standards offering a comprehensive array of baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree programs. Consistent with the tradition of land grant universities, Colorado state university has exclusive authority to offer graduate and undergraduate programs in agriculture, forestry, natural resources, and veterinary medicine.
C.R.S. 23-31-101*

Because of CSU's statutory role and mission, the institution "is uniquely positioned to offer a fermentation science curriculum that extends from agricultural production of grains, hops, dairy, meat, grapes, and other fermentable foods to table consumption of wine, bread, cheese, yogurt, beer, and ale, and to address consumer concerns of nutrition, health, and wellness."

EVIDENCE OF NEED AND DUPLICATION

CSU would be the first university in the Rocky Mountain Region, and one of only three in the United States, to provide an academic program of undergraduate study related to the science of food and beverage fermentation. This program would be designed to prepare students for employment in the rapidly expanding interface of functional food and human health. This program meets the immediate needs of the beer, wine, dairy, soy foods, and baking industries for the next generation of skilled workforce with translational knowledge, skills, attitudes and experience. It also provides an excellent opportunity to expand our reach to all fermentation products such as yogurt, cheese, breads, fermented vegetable products such as sauerkraut and tempeh, processed meats such as sausage, fermented fruits and vegetables for wines, and fermented grain products such as beers and ales. The absence of a similar program in the Rocky Mountain region, the steady enrollment in the current brewing science and enology courses, and the availability of job opportunities in these food and beverage industries are indicators that this program will appeal to many students from Colorado, other U.S. states and Canada. Based on projected student enrollments we would expect to graduate from the major approximately 20 students per year.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129(6)(b), department staff finds that CSU's proposed Bachelor of Science in Fermentation Science degree is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission and meets gtPathways requirements.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Colorado State University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Fermentation Science.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-5-129

(6) While operating pursuant to a performance contract negotiated pursuant to this section, the governing board of a state institution of higher education:

(b) Need not consult with nor obtain approval from the Colorado commission on higher education to create modify, or eliminate academic and vocational programs offered by the institution, so long as such creations, modifications, and eliminations are consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. Institutions shall submit information to the department demonstrating that the creation or modification of an academic or career and technical education program is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. The Colorado commission on higher education shall have the authority to override the creation or modification of an academic or vocational program if the change made by the governing board is inconsistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.