

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE
FORM C**

Fields marked with * are required

Name of Initiator: Stephen Stricker

Email:* sstr@unm.edu

Date:* 09-14-07

Phone Number:* 505 277-1883

Initiator's Rank / Title* Associate Chairperson: Biology Department

Faculty Contact* Steve Stricker Administrative Contact*

Richard Cripps, Assoc. Chair, Biology Department, rcripps@unm.edu

Department* Biology

Division

Program Undergraduate

Branch

Proposed effective term:

Semester Fall ▼ Year 2008 ▼

Course Information

Select Appropriate Program Undergraduate Degree Program ▼ CIP Code

Name of New or Existing Program * Bachelors of Science, Biology

Catalog Page Number 155 Select Category Major ▼ Degree Type BS

Select Action Revision ▼

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog.

See current catalog for format within the respective college (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

To satisfy an upper-division breadth requirement for the Biology B.S., each student must complete at least three 400-level courses that are spread across three of the following five categories: 1) Cell/Molecular (CM); 2) Physiology (PH); 3) Organismal (OR); 4) Ecology/Evolution (EE) or 5) Interdisciplinary Science (ID). NOTE: the category to which each eligible course belongs is listed in parentheses (CM, PH, OR, EE, or ID), and completing three of these courses from only one or two categories will NOT satisfy the breadth requirement.

This Change affects other departmental program/branch campuses

Reason(s) for Request * (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

Modern Biology is constantly expanding, particularly at the interfaces with other disciplines ("Interdisciplinary Science"). Because of this, the Biology faculty recently voted to include Interdisciplinary Science as a fifth fundamental category to which BS majors should gain exposure. Currently, pp. 155, 156, and 158 of the catalog specify that majors pursuing a BS must satisfy an upper-division breadth requirement by taking two or more 400-level courses from at least two of four fundamental categories of Biology (Cell/Molecular, Physiology, Organismal, and Ecology/Evolution). After voting to add the fifth Interdisciplinary category, the faculty also voted to increase the breadth requirement to 3 courses that are spread across 3 of the 5 categories. The reasoning for this is that under the old rule, students could take all of their upper division courses in a single category, except for having to add but one course in another category. Under the new rule, students must be exposed to at least 3 of the categories. To ensure that this highly desirable increase in the breadth of a student's training will not also bring with it undue burden on students and slow up their graduation rates, the department is also filing 5 Form B's to dramatically increase the number of seminar courses that can satisfy this requirement. Thus, each semester, students should have no trouble scheduling courses that can be used toward the new breadth requirement.

Statements to address budgetary and Faculty Load Implications and Long-range planning

* (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

There should be no adverse budgetary effects or faculty load implications, since no new courses are being added to accommodate this Form C. Instead, the switching of sections of an existing course (Biol. 402/502) is being requested to facilitate student scheduling of courses and to clarify any possible confusion that the 5 category breadth requirement might have caused.