



## University Senate TRANSMITTAL FORM

<b>Senate Document #:</b>	09-10-10
<b>PCC ID #:</b>	09010
<b>Title:</b>	Rename the Area of Concentration of “Physiology” to “Physiological Systems” in the Ph.D. in Biological Sciences.
<b>Presenter:</b>	Alex Chen, Chair, Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee
<b>Date of SEC Review:</b>	
<b>Date of Senate Review:</b>	
<b>Voting (highlight one):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. On resolutions or recommendations one by one, or</li><li>2. In a single vote</li><li>3. To endorse entire report</li></ol>
<b>Statement of Issue:</b>	<p>The College of Chemical and Life Sciences recently renamed the Ph.D. in Biology as the Ph.D. in Biological Sciences. It was approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission July 29, 2009. As part of that process, three Areas of Concentration were renamed to reflect the topic areas emphasized in the College of Chemical and Life Sciences, and the training and research interests of the faculty. The fourth, Physiology, was not renamed at that time because its structure was still being reformulated.</p> <p>This proposal is a request for the fourth name change – changing Physiology to Physiological Systems. The new name far better reflects 21st century biological sciences, since what was called “Physiology” in the past has now broadened very substantially in the scope of questions asked and the research approaches to these questions.</p>
<b>Relevant Policy # &amp; URL:</b>	

<b>Recommendation:</b>	The Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses recommends that the Senate approve the renaming action.
<b>Committee Work:</b>	The Committee considered the proposal at its meeting on Sept 18, 2009, after successful review by both the Academic Planning Advisory Committee (APAC) and the Graduate Programs Curriculum Committee (Grad PCC). Art Popper was present to answer questions. After discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the renaming action.
<b>Alternatives:</b>	The Senate could decline to approve the degree name change.
<b>Risks:</b>	If the Senate does not approve the change, the name of the Concentration will not accurately reflect the curriculum.
<b>Financial Implications:</b>	There are no financial implications.
<b>Further Approvals Required:</b> <i>(*Important for PCC Items)</i>	Senate, President, Chancellor, and MHEC notification

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for **each** proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to [pcc-submissions@umd.edu](mailto:pcc-submissions@umd.edu).

DATE SUBMITTED\_\_\_\_

PCC LOG NO.	09010
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COLLEGE/SCHOOL **College of Chemical and Life Sciences (CLFS)**

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM **NA**

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD\_\_ \_\_ DELETE\_\_\_\_ CHANGE\_\_ X\_\_

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide **old** and **new** sample programs for curriculum changes.)

**Rename the Area of Concentration in “Physiology” as “Physiological Systems” in the Ph.D. in Biological Sciences.**

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

**See attached.**

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APPROVAL SIGNATURES - *Please **print** name, sign, and date*

1. Department Committee Chair **NA** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Department Chair **Barbara Thorne (Director, Biological Sciences Graduate Program)** \_\_\_\_\_ 8/19/09
3. College/School PCC Chair **Arthur N. Popper** \_\_\_\_\_ 8/19/09
4. Dean **Norma Allewell** \_\_\_\_\_ 8/19/09
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Chair, Senate PCC \_\_\_\_\_
7. Chair of Senate \_\_\_\_\_
8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost \_\_\_\_\_

VPAAP 8-05

The College of Chemical and Life Sciences recently proposed reorganizing and renaming the Ph.D. in Biology as the Ph.D. in Biological Sciences. The proposal to rename the degree was approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission July 29, 2009. As part of that process, we renamed three Areas of Concentration to reflect the topic areas emphasized in the College of Chemical and Life Sciences, and the training and research interests of our faculty. We did not ask to rename a fourth area at that time because the structure of that Area of Concentration was still being reformulated.

We are now requesting the fourth name change – changing Physiology to Physiological Systems. The new name for this Area of Concentration is similar to the old name, but the new name far better reflects 21st century biological sciences since what was called “Physiology” in the past has now broadened very substantially in the scope of questions asked and the research approaches to these questions. For example, physiology in the past was limited to, and focused on, issues related to how organ systems worked – such as the respiratory system, cardiovascular system, etc. Today, the discipline encompasses far broader and more exciting questions that start at the molecular level and extend to how whole organisms work. Thus, the change to “systems” implies a much broader and comprehensive understanding of how whole animals and plants, and their most minute parts, are integrated.