

Comments on the Proposal for a Bachelor of Science Major in Biomedical Sciences

Summary

Oakland University currently already has a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences (Biomedical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Sciences) within the School of Health Sciences. Many of the “new” courses discussed in this proposal already exist within the School of Health Sciences. The proposal, as submitted, is duplicative of existing courses/programs. Redundancy is of concern in a time of fiscal limitations such as is currently being experienced at Oakland University.

Background

The School of Health Sciences at Oakland University already has significant faculty expertise (from both full time and part time adjunct instructors) in Biomedical Sciences. Oakland University students for years have been using majors within SHS to not only enter the health care professions at the bachelor’s level, but also as conduits to post-undergraduate education in allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, physician assistant and public health.

Currently the programs most commonly followed by students interested in Pre-Professional studies are either the Pre-Health Professions tract within the Bachelor of Science in Health Science, or the Biomedical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Sciences program, without doing a clinical specialization. Both programs have provided students for years with a solid foundation in Biomedical Sciences, clinical medicine, and health care-related issues nearly identical to the program being proposed by the Department of Biological Sciences.

The SHS currently offers courses providing the foundations of basic and medical biochemistry, pharmacology, medical microbiology, parasitology and mycology, pathology, cellular pathology, clinical chemistry, hematology and hemostasis, molecular/medical genetics, molecular pathology, molecular diagnostics, nutrition science, legal and ethical issues in health care, complementary medicine, exercise physiology, community and public health, and clinical correlations. Oral and written communication skills, data analysis, critical thinking and problem solving skills are emphasized in all the biomedical courses.

The program proposed is therefore not a distinct program, but is duplicating existing coursework and interdisciplinary education currently available at Oakland University