

September 17, 2017

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I am writing on behalf of the chemistry department to solicit approval for a series of curricular and course revisions to all our B.S. and B.A. programs. Westmont's chemistry program has not undergone significant changes in over a decade (and perhaps two or three) and these changes are intended to modernize our curriculum, bring greater disciplinary coherence to our biochemistry track, and better align our writing and speech intensive GE course with the type of technical writing employed by scientists. Since the changes are interdependent I am submitting them under a single cover letter in the hopes this will provide you with greater insight into their impact on our program as a whole. Additional information about these changes is provided in the attached rationale documents, sample syllabi, and sample 4-year plans.

The specific changes we are proposing include:

- Transfer of the existing writing and speech intensive GE certification from the senior seminar course (CHM 195) to the introductory analytical chemistry course (CHM 121)
- Additional modification of the introductory analytical chemistry (CHM 121) course description and content to include more instrumental methods in accordance with the 2015 American Chemical Society accreditation standards and recommendations made by its committee on professional training in their 2016 assessment of our department.
- Reduction of seminar (CHM 195) credit by one unit and increase of the Introductory Analytical chemistry (CHM 121) credit by one unit in support of the above two changes.
- Addition of the Advanced Biochemistry course we have been offering as a CHM 150 advanced topic course to the catalogue as a regular course, with a suggested numbering of CHM 114, sequential with the existing BIO/CHM 113 introductory course.
- Removal of the existing advanced analytical chemistry course (CHM 122) requirement from the Chemistry's biochemistry B.S. track and its replacement by the above advanced biochemistry course (CHM 114), a move enabled by the above changes to the CHM 121 introductory analytical chemistry course and which will ensure our biochemistry track graduates take two courses in biochemistry.
- Addition of the advanced biochemistry course (CHM 114) to the elective offerings in our chemistry professional B.S. track.

Additional information about these changes is provided in the attached rationale documents and sample syllabi. The department met throughout the Spring of 2017 to plan out these changes and this proposal has the support of all its members, including Professors Cantrell and Everest who are currently on sabbatical.

**Stephen M.
Contakes**

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Chair, Department of Chemistry

Signing on behalf of the department

Digitally signed by Stephen M. Contakes
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