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## Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, College of Engineering, March 28, 2014

Utah State University

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## Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template

**Institution Submitting Request:** Utah State University

**Proposed Title:** Discontinuation of the Interdepartmental Program in Toxicology MS & PhD Degrees

**Currently Approved Title:** Interdepartmental Program in Toxicology MS & PhD Degrees

**School or Division or Location:** Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering and Science

**Department(s) or Area(s) Location:** Department of Plants, Soils, and Climate (College of Agriculture); Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences (College of Agriculture); Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (College of Engineering); Department of Biology (College of Science); Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry (College of Science)

**Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code<sup>1</sup> (for new programs):** N/A

**Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs):**

**Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs):** N/A

**Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:** 01/03/2014

**Proposal Type (check all that apply):**

R401-5			R401-6		
<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>			<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>		
Section #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Item	Section #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Item
4.1.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor*	6.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
5.1.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Emphasis on an Existing Degree*	6.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Unit
5.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Proficiency Not Eligible for Financial Aid			
5.1.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs			
5.1.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Programs			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer			
5.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Consolidation			
5.1.6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Creation			
5.1.7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Transfer			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Consolidation			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Center			
5.1.8	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Institute			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Bureau			
5.1.9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate Certificate			

\*Requires "Section VI: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

**Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:**

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name:**

<sup>1</sup> CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

**Program Request - Abbreviated Template**  
**Utah State University**  
**Discontinuation of the Interdepartmental Toxicology Graduate Programs**  
**9/5/2013**

**Section I: Request**

This request is to discontinue the Interdepartmental Program in Toxicology, which offers MS and PhD degrees from the Departments of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences (ADVS); Plants, Soils, and Climate (PSC); Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE); Biology (BIOL); and Chemistry & Biochemistry (CHEM). Enrollments in the program have declined since 1990 and all but two students in the program in the last decade have been in the Department of ADVS.

**Section II: Need**

Since its creation in 1962, the interdepartmental graduate program in toxicology has awarded 129 MS and PhD degrees (Table 1). Of these, 59 degrees have been awarded to students mentored by faculty in the Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences (ADVS). The remaining degrees have been awarded by other departments in the toxicology program, including Biology (26), Chemistry and Biochemistry (33), Civil and Environmental Engineering (2), and Plants, Soils, and Climate (6). Degrees have also been awarded to students in other departments in the S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources (1) and the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science (2). Ten of the 12 students who have graduated in the program since 2000 have graduated in the ADVS Department, with the remaining students in CHEM (in 2002) and BIOL (in 2004).

Table 1. Summary of enrollments in the Toxicology Program.

Year	College of Agriculture			College of Science		College of Engineering	College of Natural Resources	Total
	ADVS	PSC	NDFS*	BIOL	CHEM	CEE	WILD*	
1962-1970	0	1	0	1	8	0	0	10
1971-1980	15	5	0	3	6	0	0	29
1981-1990	24	0	2	12	11	0	1	50
1991-2000	10	0	0	9	7	2	0	28
2001-2012	10	0	0	1	1	0	0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b> (45.7%)	<b>6</b> (4.6%)	<b>2</b> (1.6%)	<b>26</b> (20.1%)	<b>33</b> (26.6%)	<b>2</b> (1.6%)	<b>1</b> (0.8%)	<b>129</b>

\*Departments outside of the Interdepartmental Toxicology program.

In addition to having 83% of the toxicology graduates in the past decade come from the ADVS Department, the students who are currently enrolled in the Interdepartmental Toxicology Program are all mentored by ADVS faculty and are also expected to receive ADVS degrees.

The Interdepartmental Toxicology Program has made significant contributions to graduate training at Utah State University since its inception in 1962. However, in recent years, student interest in the program has been greatly diminished or nonexistent in all but the ADVS Department. The decline in student numbers is linked to changes in faculty make-up in the five departments because of resignations and retirements over the last few decades and in recent years.

Utah State University departments with graduate degree programs recently undertook intensive self-studies and subsequent development of five-year plans for their graduate degrees. Four of the five departments in the Interdepartmental Toxicology Program (ADVS, PSC, BIOL, and CHEM) provided comments specifically on the toxicology program. Three of the departments (PSC, BIOL, and CHEM) indicated in their self-studies that there is not sufficient departmental faculty involvement to warrant the continuation of the toxicology degree in their department. ADVS indicated in its self-study that “it seems important that other units on campus provide ongoing support (i.e. graduate stipends, faculty mentors, etc.)” if the Interdepartmental Toxicology Program (ITP) continues. The ADVS self-study went on to say “if the ITP fails to continue as an established program, ADVS will establish a Toxicology Specialization that will allow faculty with this expertise to continue to mentor graduate students and provide training in the discipline.” ADVS subsequently determined that instead of a toxicology specialization under the Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences MS and PhD degrees, the ADVS faculty would like to request approval of MS and PhD degrees in toxicology offered through the department. A separate R401 requesting the creation of these degrees has been developed by ADVS.

### **Section III: Institutional Impact**

No course enrollments will be affected by discontinuing the Interdepartmental Toxicology Program because all classes used in the toxicology graduate degree programs will continue to be offered and used in other programs. No changes in faculty numbers will result from this discontinuation as their teaching assignments will remain the same and graduate training will continue to be an area of emphasis in these departments. Each student currently in the Interdepartmental Toxicology Program will be given the option to finish with the Interdepartmental Toxicology MS or PhD degree or move into ADVS MS or PhD degrees in toxicology. All future students choosing a graduate degree in toxicology will do so in ADVS.

### **Section IV: Finances**

No cost savings or additional expenses are anticipated from discontinuing this graduate program. Students currently in the Interdepartmental Toxicology Program will continue to be supported within the ADVS Department.

### **Section V: Program Curriculum**

N/A