




MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 27, 2017

**TO:** Jie Li, Associate Professor  
Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery  
School of Medicine

**FROM:** Patty Murphy, Executive Director   
Office of Assessment and Accreditation

**SUBJECT:** ADDENDUM to January 27<sup>th</sup> Memo re: Master of Science Degree in Skin Biology and Dermatological Sciences (MS Degree in SBDS)

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This memorandum is to follow up on the School of Medicine's Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery's intent to implement a new Master of Science degree in Skin Biology and Dermatological Sciences (MS degree in SBDS) program beginning in the fall of 2017. In my previous memo dated January 23rd, I stated that this change was not likely to be considered substantive and should only require notification to our accrediting agency, SACSCOC.

However, after reviewing the SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy and your proposal, I do not believe that notification is even required for this change. While it is an innovative new program and requires the creation of new courses, it does not "represent a significant departure, either in content or method of delivery" from what we are currently approved by SACSCOC to offer due to the following:

- The program length meets the SACSCOC requirement of a minimum of 30 credit hours.
- The program requires students to submit an independent portfolio demonstrating how they will contribute to the profession or an optional thesis.
- The program courses, although new, are related in subject matter to currently approved courses in the biomedical sciences programs and the medical education program.
- The University is currently approved to offer related degree programs at the same level (master's) or higher including the following:
  - Master's Level Programs
    - MPH in Public Health
    - MSPH in Public Health
    - MS in Biostatistics
    - MS in Clinical and Translational Investigation
    - MS in Genomic Medicine
  - Doctoral Level Programs
    - PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
    - Executive PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
    - PhD in Biostatistics
    - PhD in Cancer Biology
    - PhD in Epidemiology
    - PhD in Human Genetics and Genomics
    - PhD in Microbiology and immunology
    - PhD in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology
    - PhD in Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology
    - PhD in Physiology and Biophysics
    - PhD in Prevention Science and Community Health

- MD in Medicine
- Even though the program is hybrid program, it does not meet the SACSCOC definition of distance education because the majority (60%) of credit hours will be earned on campus. However, even if this were to change, the University is currently approved to offer 100% distance education programs so it would not represent a substantive change.

SACSCOC only requires notifications of new programs that represent a significant departure from our current programs. Therefore, no notification letter will be sent. Since this represents a change from my previous memorandum, I wanted to inform you so that you have this for your records.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter (305) 284-3276.

cc: Faculty Senate  
Laurence Gardner, Interim Dean, Miller School of Medicine  
Zafar Nawaz, Graduate Dean, UMMSM  
Robert Kirsner, Professor and Chair, Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery, UMMSM  
Dushyantha Jayaweera, Dean, Research and Research Education, UMMSM  
David Lewis, Senior Program Manager, Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery, UMMSM