




MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 27, 2017

**TO:** Charles Lowman, Director, Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies  
Miller School of Medicine

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

**SUBJECT:** ADDENDUM to February 27<sup>th</sup> Memo re: New Concentration of Master of Science in  
Biomedical Sciences (MBS)

---

This memorandum is to follow up on the School of Medicine's intent to implement a new Master of Science (MS) degree program in Biomedical Sciences effective fall 2017. In my previous memo dated February 27<sup>th</sup>, 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. 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 perform practical work in the form of physician shadowing or clinical/bench research.
- The curriculum for the program generally involves repackaging of existing courses, although some new courses will be developed.
- The University is currently approved to offer the following doctoral level programs in the biomedical sciences:
  - PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
  - Executive PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
  - PhD in Cancer Biology
  - 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 Neuroscience
  - PhD in Physiology and Biophysics
- The program will not be offered via distance education. 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 at (305) 284-3276.

cc: Faculty Senate  
Guillermo Prado, Dean, Graduate School  
Laurence Gardner, Interim Dean, Miller School of Medicine  
Zafar Nawaz, Sr. Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Miller School of Medicine