




MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 28, 2018

TO: Sapna K. Deo, Professor and Graduate Program Director
Miller School of Medicine

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

RE: **New MS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Program with 2 Tracks**

On August 22, 2018, the Miller School of Medicine (MSOM) notified my office of its intent to offer a new Master of Science (MS) degree program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The University currently only awards a MS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (academic plan code: BCHM_MSI) as a courtesy degree for the PhD program. This program is for a new standalone master's program.

The proposed MS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology program will require successful completion of 30 credit hours and will emphasize laboratory-based training. Students will be required to choose either a Research track or an Industry track.

The curriculum will include existing courses in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. In addition, six new courses will also be developed including three content courses and three experiential courses.

Program Curriculum

- Research Track
 - Ethics, RCR, Professional Skills Workshop (1 credit)/PIB 783 Professional Development: Skills for Success II
 - BMB 701 Research Journal Club (taken in both the fall and spring terms)
 - BMB 705 Principles of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
 - BMB 710 Advanced Topics in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (in the following topic areas: Nanomedicine, Cancer Signaling, Structural Biology and Applications to Drug Discovery, Molecular Neuroscience of the Brain, Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism)
 - BMB 714 Molecular Genetics
 - BMB 7## Current Topics in BMB (NEW COURSE)
 - BMB 8## Research in BMB (NEW COURSE) (taken in fall, spring and summer terms)
- Industry Track
 - Ethics, RCR, Professional Skills Workshop (1 credit)/PIB 783 Professional Development: Skills for Success II
 - BMB 701 Research Journal Club (taken in both the fall and spring terms)
 - BMB 705 Principles of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

- BMB 710 Advanced Topics in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (in the following topic areas: Nanomedicine, Cancer Signaling, Structural Biology and Applications to Drug Discovery, Molecular Neuroscience of the Brain, Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism)
- BMB 714 Molecular Genetics
- BMB 7## Biotechniques I (NEW COURSE)
- BMB 7## Biotechniques II (NEW COURSE)
- Internship (NEW COURSE)
- Capstone (NEW COURSE)

Dr. Sapna Deo will serve as the program director for both tracks. She is a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at MSOM and Director of Graduate Studies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She has a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Kentucky and extensive research experience in the areas of bionanotechnology, biosensing and molecular diagnostics.

The proposed new program 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 proposed program meets the SACSCOC requirement of a minimum of 30 credit hours for a graduate program.
- The proposed program will develop new courses and integrate existing courses. Although some new courses will be developed, they do not involve a significant change in terms of content from currently offered courses.
- The proposed program will be supported by current qualified faculty.
- The proposed program will be coordinated by a qualified faculty member: Dr. Sapna Deo.
- The University is already approved by SACSCOC to award a MS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology as a courtesy degree.
- The University is currently approved to offer the following graduate programs in related areas:
 - MS in Biomedical Sciences
 - MS in Biostatistics
 - PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
 - Executive PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
 - PhD in Biostatistics
 - PhD in Cancer Biology
 - PhD in Cellular Physiology and Molecular Biophysics
 - 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
- The majority of the program will not be offered via distance education and, in any case, the University is approved to offer 100% distance education programs.
- The program will be offered on the University’s Medical campus.
- The graduate program covers the literature in the field through its required core coursework and successful completion of an oral comprehensive exam.
- The graduate program ensures ongoing student engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training experiences through 15 credit hours of required research for the Research track, and a required internship (9 credits) and capstone (3 credits) for the Industry track.

SACSCOC only requires notification of program changes that represent a significant departure from our current programs. Therefore, no notification or approval is required for this change.

Please contact me if you have any questions at pattymurphy@miami.edu or (305) 284-3276.

CC: Faculty Senate
Guillermo Prado, Dean of the Graduate School
Shanta Dhar, Associate Professor, Miller School of Medicine
Henri Ford, Dean and CAO, Miller School of Medicine
Karen Beckett, University Registrar
Carrie Glass, Executive Director of Student Financial Assistance and Employment

