

CHANGE THE NAME OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE WITH A MAJOR IN
RADIOLOGICAL PHYSICS TO THE MASTER OF SCIENCE WITH A MAJOR IN
MEDICAL PHYSICS

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve a proposal from the School of Medicine to change the name of the Master of Science with a major in Radiological Physics to the Master of Science with a major in Medical Physics, effective Winter 2016.

Background

Established in the early 1970's, the M.S. program in Radiological Physics was one of the first of its kind in the world. At that time, the profession for which this program trained its graduates was still relatively new, and the term "Medical Physics" was not commonly used in this profession. However, as the field has matured, the term "Medical Physics" has become almost universal, and graduate education for trainees became well prescribed. Since the inception of the WSU program, many other, similar programs have been established throughout North America, and nearly all have named their degree "Medical Physics."

Recently, the name "Radiological Physics" has caused confusion for applicants who are unsure if Wayne State's program provides actual training in "medical physics" and if so, whether the degree title is acceptable to the American Board of Radiology for future board certification. In addition, there is no CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) code associated with the title Radiological Physics, while Medical Physics does have a CIP code (i.e., 51.2205 "Health/Medical Physics"). This has caused visa issues for at least one international student.

Approvals

The name change has been approved by the faculty of the Medical/Radiological Physics graduate programs, the chair of the Department of Oncology, the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs in the School of Medicine, Graduate Council, Dean of the Graduate School, and Office of the Provost.