

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PROFESSIONAL BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Bachelor of Science in Professional Biomedical Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective Fall 2024.

Background

Historically, Wayne State has enrolled many students who, despite their success in prerequisite coursework at WSU, have left campus without having earned a degree. Often, they have come quite close to degree completion. Students' incomplete undergraduate degrees are reflected as 'stop-outs' in terms of undergraduate degree completion and can become impediments for students to advance their graduate education after the completion of their professional credential.

About fifty Wayne State students a year are accepted to professional schools to complete degrees in programs such as Pharmacy that do not require a bachelor's degree prior to admission. Though successful in achieving their goals, such students are reflected as undergraduate 'stop-outs'. Based on data from the Fall 2017 undergraduate cohort, increasing the number of degrees granted by fifty has the potential to increase WSU's six-year graduation rate by up to 2%.

Program Description

The BS in Professional Biomedical Sciences (BS-PBS) is an undergraduate degree completion path for students who made initial progress in an undergraduate degree program but transitioned to a professional medical sciences program, such as Pharmacy (PharmD), prior to completion of their undergraduate degree. For CLAS and Wayne State, such a degree would enable us to continue to support and honor the work that students have done in the past and acknowledge the success of students now studying in a professional program with the recognition of a bachelor's degree. This degree is only open to students previously enrolled as undergraduate students in a CLAS major at WSU who meet the established eligibility requirements. Eligible students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree after transferring credits from approximately a year of successfully completed professional school credits without having to return to an undergraduate program.

Eligibility Requirements

To apply for the BS-PBS completion degree, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Must have completed at least 90 credits towards an undergraduate program before entering into a professional program.
- Must have completed the University's general education requirements, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) language requirement, and the CLAS minor requirement.
- Must have completed at least three college-level semesters at Wayne State University
- Must have a minimum of 30 credits earned in residence at WSU prior to entry into a professional program.

- Must have completed at least 12 credits at the 3000 level or higher.
- Made reasonable progress towards the completion of a declared WSU major. This includes interactions with department major academic advisors and/or successful completion of required coursework for the major.
- Must have a minimum cumulative and major GPA of 2.0 at the time of departure from WSU.
- Must have successfully completed at least the first year (or more, if additional credits are needed to reach 120 total credits) of a professional medical-based program at a U.S. accredited institution.

Graduation Requirements

Candidates for the B.S. in Professional Biomedical Sciences degree must earn a minimum of 120 credits and have a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Program Administration

The CLAS Dean's Office will be responsible for oversight and certification of the BS-PBS completion degrees with the help of an Academic Staff member. The CLAS Dean's Office will appoint an advisor who will review and evaluate student cases and audit records to determine eligibility for this degree pathway. The CLAS Dean's Office staff, with the advisor, will conduct graduation audits to confirm completion of requirements and certify the BS-PBS degree. Decisions about student eligibility will be made on a rolling basis. Because this completion degree is developed as an off-ramp using already completed credits, no additional coursework would be necessary.

Budget and Resource Requirements

Minimal additional resources are required. The CLAS Dean's Office will utilize existing advising and staff resources to conduct degree audits and degree certifications.

Accreditation

This program does not require specialized or professional accreditation.

Approvals

This program is supported by the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The proposal for the BS-PBS degree has been approved by the CLAS Curriculum Committee, the CLAS Faculty Council, the CLAS Faculty Assembly, the CLAS Dean's office, and the Provost.