Senate Bill 1112-25

UNIVERSITY SENATE

UNVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Introduced by: UAC

Date: May 14, 2012

CHANGES TO CHEMISTRY HONORS BS PROGRAM

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That this takes effect for the Spring 2013 semester.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to President George M. Philip for approval.

March 20, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

This cover letter explains the Department of Chemistry's proposal for changes to its Honors B.S. program. The change that we propose is the addition of a third "track" within the Honors B.S. description due to the popularity amongst our best students for our Chemical Biology track. We have talked extensively with these students and they would like to see acknowledgment on their official transcripts that their work involved study in the field of Chemical Biology. It seems that the most efficient way to do this is to create a third "track" within the Honors B.S. Chem program. We previously have split the Honors Program into "General Chemistry" and "Forensics Chemistry" emphases or tracks, so this represents the creation of a third Honors possibility for our students.

The requirements for students in the "standard" B.S. Honors Chemistry and B.S. Honors Forensics Chemistry tracks are sufficiently different from those for the Chemical Biology students that we feel that this additional pathway is warranted. We have chosen to model the Honors Chemical Biology track on our "regular" B.S. Chemical Biology track, except that research that leads to an honors thesis and seminar are explicitly required among the advanced electives, as well as certain required GPA attainments. New Undergraduate Bulletin copy is attached in which additions to old copy and the additional new copy are underlined.

We note that we have an accompanying course action that has been submitted in order to allow the non-Honors Chemical Biology track to be able to be considered for certification by the American Chemical Society during the next evaluation of our programs in a couple of years. The proposed Honors program will also be able to be certified as well. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Paul J. Toscano

Paul Toscano
Associate Professor of Chemistry
and Director of UG Studies, Chem

University at Albany – State University of New York

College of Arts and Sciences **Course and Program Action Form** **Proposal No.** _____

Please check one: [ ] Course Proposal [X] Program Proposal

Please mark all that apply:

[ ]	New Course	Revision of: [ ]	Number	[ ]	Description
[ ]	Cross-Listing	[ ]	Title	[ ]	Prerequisites
[ ]	Shared-Resources Course	[ ]	Credits		
[ ]	Deactivate/Activate Course (boldface & underline as appropriate)	[X]	Other (specify):	Change to Honors Program	

Department: Chemistry Effective Semester, Year: Spring 2013

Course Number Current: n/a New: _____ Credits: n/a

Course Title: Chemistry Department Honors Program revised bulletin copy

Course Description to appear in Bulletin:

Chemistry Department Honors Program revised bulletin copy is attached below.

Prerequisites statement to be appended to description in Bulletin:

If S/U is to be designated as the only grading system in the course, check here: [ ] n/a

This course is (will be) cross listed with (i.e., CAS ###): _____

This course is (will be) a shared-resources course with (i.e., CAS ###): _____

Explanation of proposal:

We propose to add an Honors B.S. Chemistry/Chemical Biology emphasis to our Honors B.S. Chem Program in order to accommodate Honors students who are interested in Chemical Biology and to allow them to have recognition on their transcripts that they studied in that particular field.

Other departments or schools which offer similar or related courses and which have certified that this proposal does not overlap their offering:

Chair of Proposing Department	Date
Li Niu	3/20/12

Approved by Chair(s) of Departments having cross-listed course(s) **[Copy of e-mail approval on following page.]** Date	Dean of College Date
Chair of Academic Programs Committee Date	Dean of Undergraduate or Graduate Studies Date

Honors Program

The honors program in chemistry is designed for outstanding students enrolled in the general program leading to the B.S. degree, Chemistry Emphasis, or in the Comprehensive Forensics Chemistry Emphasis or in the Chemical Biology Emphasis. Students may apply for admission to the honors program by submitting a letter of request to the department chair no later than April 15 of the sophomore year (for admission in the Fall) or November 15 of the junior year (for admission in the Spring). Junior transfers may apply at the time of their admission to the University. Primary emphasis will be placed on indications of academic ability and maturity sufficient for applicants to pursue with distinction a program involving independent research.

The minimum requirements for admission include: (1) Completion of A Chm 120 or T Chm 130, A Chm 121 or T Chm 131, A Chm 124, 125, 220, 221, 222, 223, 225 or their equivalents; (2) An overall grade point average of 3.25; (3) A grade point average of 3.50 in chemistry courses required for the major; and (4) Written recommendations from at least three faculty members, one of whom, preferably should be from outside the Department of Chemistry.

Students in the program must maintain both a minimum grade point average of 3.25 overall and of 3.50 in chemistry courses taken to satisfy major requirements during the junior and senior years. The progress of participants in the honors program will be reviewed at the end of the junior year by the student's adviser and the Departmental Undergraduate Committee. Students not meeting academic and independent research standards at that time may be precluded from continuing in the program during their senior year. These students may, of course, continue as majors.

Students may select from the following three emphases or tracks:

• *Honors B.S. Chemistry, Chemistry Emphasis*: 70 credits as follows: in addition to the 19 credits listed above and the mathematics and physics requirements listed for the general B.S. Chemistry program, chemistry emphasis, A CHM 350 or 444, 351 or 445, 352Z, 420, 442, three credits of advanced laboratory chosen from A CHM 417, 430, 446, or 450, and three credits of advanced chemistry at the 400 level, not including research courses (63 credits total); 3 credits of A CHM 426 (Undergraduate Research), and 4 credits of A CHM 427 (Honors Undergraduate Research). Student research must include an honors thesis and departmental seminar by the end of the student's last semester.

• *Honors B.S. Chemistry, Comprehensive Forensics Emphasis*: 83-84 credits as outlined in the general B.S. Chemistry program, with Comprehensive Forensics Emphasis, with the exception that the student must take R CRJ 202, and 5 credits of electives must come from A Chm 426, 427, 455. The independent study must include an honors research project, culminating with a written honors thesis and departmental seminar by the end of the student's last semester.

• *Honors B.S. Chemistry, Chemical Biology Emphasis*: 71 credits as outlined in the general B.S. Chemistry program, with Chemical Biology Emphasis, with the exception that the advanced laboratory must be A CHM 426; in addition 4 credits of A CHM 427 for a total of 75 credits. The independent study must include an honors research project, culminating with a written honors thesis and departmental seminar by the end of the student's last semester.

After completion of the requirements above, the records of the candidates will be reviewed by the Departmental Undergraduate Committee. After consideration of overall academic record, performance and accomplishments in the independent study project, the quality of the Honors Seminar and Thesis, and the evaluations of departmental faculty members who have supervised these activities, a recommendation for or against a degree "with honors in chemistry" will be made by the committee to the departmental faculty. The final recommendation will be made by the departmental faculty and transmitted to the department chair.