February 22, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Craig Beyrouty  
Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

FROM: Elizabeth Beise  
Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Combined Program – Veterinary Medicine (PCC Log No. 15045)

At its meeting on February 5, 2016, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved the proposal to modify the Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Combined Program – Veterinary Medicine. A copy of the proposal is attached.

The change is effective Fall 2016. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, including the undergraduate programs’ four-year plans (contact Lisa Kiely at lkiely@umd.edu for more information).

MDC/Enclosure

cc: Andrew Harris, Chair, Senate PCC Committee  
Barbara Gill, Office of Enrollment Management  
Reka Montfort, University Senate  
Erin Taylor, Division of Information Technology  
Pam Phillips, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment  
Anne Turkos, University Archives  
Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar  
Cynthia Stevens, Office of Undergraduate Studies  
Evelyn Cooper, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Chad Stahl, Department of Animal and Avian Sciences
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM/UNIT PROPOSAL

• Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

• Please submit the signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.

College/School: AGNR - 01202500

Department/Program: ANSC – 1250701, ALL ANSC options (0104A, 0104C, 0104E, 0104F, 1299D)

Type of Action (choose one):
☒ Curriculum change (including informal specializations) □ Curriculum change for an LEP Program
☐ Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration □ New academic degree/award program
☐ Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration □ New Professional Studies award iteration
☐ Suspend/delete program □ New Minor

*Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:

Proposal to modify all ANSC options (0104A, 0104C, 0104E, 0104F, 1299D):

We propose to change the ANSC curriculum to require students to earn a C- or better in all required courses to count towards completion of the ANSC major.

- Does not include GenEd (except major requirements which also satisfy GenEd requirements) or electives
- For courses that have pre-requisites, a student must earn a C- grade in all prerequisite courses prior to enrolling in the next course in the sequence.

*Please see included documents for supporting data, list of major required courses, and detailed justification for this proposed change.

Departmental/Unit Contact Person for Proposal: Libby Dufour, ANSC Assistant Director

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair  Sarah A Balcom  11 Dec 2015
2. Department Chair  Chad Strickland  12/11/15
3. College/School PCC Chair
4. Dean
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)
6. Chair, Senate PCC
7. University Senate Chair (if required)
8. Senior Vice President and Provost

Elizabe 2/22/2016
Department of Animal and Avian Sciences (ANSC) PCC proposal presentation to change the minimum grade requirement for ANSC courses to a C-

Current ANSC grading policy allows students to count courses in which they received a grade of D+/D/D- towards their major requirements.

**Issue 1:** Students with a weak foundation in lower level courses are ill-prepared for upper-level courses.

_Ultimately, our weaker grading policy leads to students spending more time in a major that may not be suited to their abilities by allowing them to progress with borderline grades when it is desirable to help students recognize early on when they are not a good fit in a major. This is a waste of student (and parent) time, money, and effort._

A single D grade will not, on its own, preclude a student from continuing on in the ANSC major under this new policy, but it will signal from an early point that students need to demonstrate the ability to understand core material and handle the vigor of a science curriculum to succeed throughout their 4 years in ANSC.

_For students with truly extenuating circumstances we have the ability to judiciously grant exceptions to this policy to avoid impeding their reasonable academic progress._

**Issue 2:** According to the University, a “D+, D, D- denotes borderline understanding of the subject, marginal performance, and it does not represent satisfactory progress toward a degree.”

http://www.testudo.umd.edu/plusminusimplementation.html

Therefore, we are allowing students to earn credit towards their ANSC degree requirements despite this being out-of-line with the University’s stated grading policy.

**Issue 3:** AGNR is one of three colleges on campus that does not have specific requirements for students to earn a C- or better in some or all of its major requirements. Among the STEM colleges, (CMNS, ENGR, and AGNR), we are the only college not to have such a requirement. Within AGNR, we are one of two departments along with ENST that accept D+/D/D- grades towards major requirements.

Not surprisingly, our department is seen as a good place for biology and other life science majors who are not meeting their own program requirements to come, despite the fact that our curriculum is no less rigorous than other science departments on campus. Additionally, students who do not meet the requirements for limited enrollment programs come to ANSC despite not having a specific interest in Animal Science. Their performance does not typically improve in this major despite our reputation.

_By being the outlier in our grading policy at this university, we enhance the perception that ANSC is a less rigorous major option, setting up students to transfer into this major only to struggle here too._

**Proposal from the ANSC PCC:** We propose to change the ANSC curriculum to require students to earn a C- or better in all required courses to count towards completion of the ANSC major.

- Does not include GenEd (except major requirements which also satisfy GenEd requirements) or electives
- For courses that have pre-requisites, a student must earn a C- grade in all prerequisite courses prior to enrolling in the next course in the sequence.
Useful resources:
ANSC Course listing including which semester all ANSC courses are taught and the required prerequisites.
http://ansc.umd.edu/undergraduate/course-listing

ANSC Program requirements, with links to the curriculum worksheets for all of our options:
http://ansc.umd.edu/undergraduate/program-requirements

NB: Courses required of all ANSC students, regardless of their major option (Management, Biotech, Sci/Pre-Prof, Equine, combined BS/DVM) are:

- ANSC 101/103 – Intro to ANSC and lab
- ANSC 211 – Anatomy
- ANSC 212/214- Physiology and Lab
- ANSC 314- Nutrition
- ANSC 327- Genetics
- BSCI 105- Intro to biology
- CHEM 131/CHEM132 – Inorganic Chemistry I and Lab
- CHEM 231 – Organic Chemistry lecture
- MATH220 – Elementary Calculus
- BSCI223 - Microbiology
- AREC250 or ECON200 – Principles of Economics


Predictive Course Data:

Predictive value of a D grade in ANSC211 for grades in ANSC212
Date range: 2005-2015

Number of students earning a grade of D-/D/D+ in ANSC 211: 55

Performance in ANSC 212 - Physiology (grade for first attempt)

<table>
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<th>Grade of ANSC*</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Grade of F</td>
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<td>Grade of D-/D/D+</td>
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<td>Grade of C-/C/C+</td>
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<td>Grade of B-/B/B+</td>
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<td>Prior credit</td>
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<tr>
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55 | 100.0%
## Predictive value of a D grade in ANSC211 for grades in ANSC327

### Performance in ANSC 327 Genetics (grade for first attempt)

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<td>Grade of F</td>
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<td>Grade of D-/D/D+</td>
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<td>Grade of A-/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior credit</td>
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*Reasons for leaving include change of major or academic dismissal.

### Predictive value of a D grade in ANSC212 for grades in ANSC327

Performance in ANSC 327 (grade for first attempt)

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*Reasons for leaving include change of major or academic dismissal.
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<th>Animal Care &amp; Management (0104A)</th>
<th>Equine Studies (0104C)</th>
<th>Science/Pre-Professional (0104E)</th>
<th>Animal Biotechnology (0104F)</th>
<th>Combined Degree (1295D)</th>
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