



Consolidation Committee
Final Report



Committee Details

Date: February 20, 2017

Committee Name: Sciences OWG 9

Committee Co-Chairs: Ashok Jain and Dr. Craig Flowers

Functional Area: Academic Degrees and Programs

Functional Area Coordinator: Abidun Ojemakinde, Funke Fontenot and Tau Kadhi

Major Tasks for Committee Tracker from Final Planning Document and Recommendations

Task: Address Program and Curriculum Differences

Recommendation and/or Action Taken:

The Sciences OWG 9 Committee encompasses the following disciplines at Albany State University (ASU) and Darton State College (DSC) – Biology, Chemistry, Forensic Science and Science Education. As of the time of the initiation of the consolidation, ASU offers a Bachelor’s of Science (BS) in biology, BS in chemistry (certified by the American Chemical Society), BS in Forensic Sciences (National accreditation FEPAC), BS in Science Education, and MS in Science Education. DSC offers an Associate of Science (AS) degree with a concentration in Biological or Chemical Sciences and an AS in Teacher Education. DSC does not offer a forensic science program or graduate level courses. Both institutions offer a pre-engineering program.

Course comparison revealed many similarities between 1000 and 2000 level science courses offered on both institutions. As such, the OWG tasked representatives in each discipline area from both institutions to review, compare, and streamline the course offerings in their respective disciplines. Representatives were also asked to diversify curriculum where possible. From this, the recommendations regarding the curriculum and degree programs were developed.

It was also observed that ASU science courses were with split labs and lectures mostly at 1000 and 2000 level science courses, however, at DSC labs and lectures were combined. OWG-9 members discussed the pro- and con- of split vs combined lab and lectures. As combined labs and lectures provide good foundation and strengthen the content knowledge, it was decided to combine labs and lectures into one course across science discipline. The decision was approved by majority of faculty members and CIC. Therefore, all courses with



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labs were combined with lecture with a course number with K (following USG policy) representing a lab component of the course.

Task: Streamline Program Offerings

Recommendation and/or Action Taken:

DSC only offers terminal Associate’s degrees whereas ASU only offers terminal bachelors and/or master’s degrees. As such, none of the above mentioned degree programs required integration and will remain largely as they currently exist -- with the exception of changes made to course numbers, updates to the academic catalog, and the implementation that all laboratory and lecture classes be combined into a single (K) course.

Recommendations:

1. Retain all current AS and BS programs currently offered by both institutions with the following changes:
 - a. Streamline course content and numbering for 1000 and 2000 level Science courses so that students with an AS degree may transition to BS program with no loss of credits.
 - b. Combine lecture and laboratory for all science courses into single (K) course.

Task: Diversify Curriculum

Recommendation and/or Action Taken:

The sciences are interdisciplinary and integrative. Students in the sciences are employed in a wide variety of careers from industry, medicine, research, public health, or even technology. As such, efforts were made by the committee to diversify the curriculum and offer opportunities for multidisciplinary studies through the introduction of tracks and minors.

Recommendations:

1. Develop minors in biology and chemistry.
2. Develop tracks in biology curriculum for Research, Bioenergy, Public Health, and Food Safety by creating the following courses:
 - a. Research Track
 - i. Foundations of Research I: Critical Reading of the Biomedical Literature (1 credit hour)
 - ii. Foundations of Research II: formulating Hypothesis Driven Research and Ethics of Research (2 credit hours)



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Foundations of Research III: Communication of Biomedical Information (1 credit hour) b. Bioenergy Track <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The fundamentals of Bioenergy (3 credit hours) ii. Introduction to Biomass (2 credit hours) c. Public Health Track <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health (3 credit hours) ii. Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health (2 credit hours) d. Food Safety Track <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Introduction to Foodborne Diseases (3 credit hours) ii. Fundamentals of Public Health Nutrition (2 credit hours)

Other/Final Comments (if any):

For full detail of all recommendations see:
http://www.asurams.edu/consolidation/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/OWG_9-Science_Approved_Recommendations.pdf