

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN STOMATOLOGY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Master of Science Program in Stomatology in the College of Dentistry following completion of their program by all currently enrolled students.

Executive Summary: The request to terminate the Master of Science Program in Stomatology is based on limited applications and enrollment in the program during the past six years. Current students will be provided all necessary coursework to complete their program in Stomatology. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** The Master of Science Program in Stomatology is offered by the Department of Oral Pathology, Radiology, and Medicine in the College of Dentistry. Stomatology is the science concerned with the structure, function, and diseases of the oral cavity. Research and clinical efforts are focused on the recognition, prevention, and treatment of oral and paraoral disease. Students choose one of two tracks – oral and maxillofacial pathology or oral and maxillofacial radiology. Students pursuing this graduate program typically undertake concurrent clinical certification, and following completion of the degree/certification program, graduates are employed in academic settings or pursue private practice.
- ◇ **Reason for proposed termination.** Upon completion of its review of all graduate programs during 2009-10, the Graduate Education Task Force noted that there is considerable overlap of this program with the Master of Science Program in Oral Science.
- ◇ **Size of program.** The Stomatology program has traditionally been small, with a total of six graduates during 2005-09. Between 2005 and 2010, there were 16 applicants to the program. The maximum enrollment during any of those years was six students in 2008-09. The current enrollment in 2010-11 is four students. It is anticipated that three of the four students will graduate by Spring 2011 and the fourth student will graduate by Spring 2012.
- ◇ **Impact on current students.** Currently enrolled students will be allowed to complete their degrees in Stomatology or given an opportunity to transfer to the Master of Science Program in Oral Science without any negative impact. Three students who were admitted in Summer 2010 have already chosen to transfer to the Master of Science Program in Oral Science. All necessary coursework will be available for the remaining student to complete the Master of Science Program in Stomatology.
- ◇ **Impact on workforce.** The proposed program termination is not expected to have an impact on the workforce because students may pursue another degree program in the College of Dentistry, such as the Master of Science Program in Oral Science.

- ◇ Impact on resources. No immediate cost savings are expected as a result of the proposed program termination. Faculty and staff efforts will be re-directed to other priorities within the department.
- ◇ Availability of graduate programs elsewhere. This graduate program does not exist elsewhere in the state.
- ◇ Alternate opportunities available to students. Dental students in Oral Pathology, Radiology, and Medicine will have the option to seek admission to the Master of Science Program in Oral Science, which will potentially make that program stronger and more efficient in the College of Dentistry.
- ◇ Date of suspension. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, suspension of new admissions to the program will become effective immediately. This program will not be included in the 2012-2014 Catalog. However, the department will continue to offer the courses necessary for currently enrolled students to complete their program in Stomatology.