

Physical Science Teaching Rename & Establish Four Emphases  
REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

The College of Education and Human Sciences is requesting a name change to the Physical Science, Comprehensive Major - Teaching (Code 240-004) to Science Teaching, Comprehensive Major (Code 240-004). The proposed name change aligns with requirements through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) that changed in August 2018. The revised rules changed the specific subject licenses (biology, chemistry, earth/space science, physics) in science to a broad license in science that must include all specific subject areas. The university will be preparing education students to teach ALL subject areas of science in one license.

The College of Education and Human Sciences is also requesting the establishment of four emphases:

1. Science Teaching, Physics Emphasis
2. Science Teaching, Chemistry Emphasis
3. Science Teaching, Earth/Space Science Emphasis
4. Science Teaching, Biology Emphasis

The proposed four emphases will allow students to choose an area they wish to pursue for greater depth of content knowledge. Creating four emphases from which students can choose will also indicate to future employers that students have more preparation in a specific science subject area.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Administrative home (Department of Physics & Astronomy).
2. Student teacher supervision responsibilities.
3. Minimal Math requirements.
4. Workload concerns regarding advising.

Pros of Recommendation:

Change aligns with Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requirements that went into effect August 2018. Revised major aligns with the national standards for the preparation of science teachers according to the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA).

Cons of Recommendation:

none

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

The committee approved the name change of the Physical Science, Comprehensive Major - Teaching (Code 240-004) to Science Teaching, Comprehensive Major (Code 240-004).

The committee approved the establishment of four emphases: Science Teaching, Physics Emphasis; Science Teaching, Chemistry Emphasis; Science Teaching, Earth/Space Science Emphasis; Science Teaching, Biology Emphasis

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 7 for to 0 against on February 4, 2020 (Date)

Recommends that:

The name change of the Physical Science, Comprehensive Major - Teaching (Code 240-004) to Science Teaching, Comprehensive Major (Code 240-004) starting 2020-2021 AY.

The establishment of four emphases starting 2020-2021 AY:

1. Science Teaching, Physics Emphasis
2. Science Teaching, Chemistry Emphasis
3. Science Teaching, Earth/Space Science Emphasis
4. Science Teaching, Biology Emphasis

Implementation Date: 20/21 catalog

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office

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