

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: BS Chemistry Degree

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of the discontinuance of the BS Chemistry degree in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 18, 2023

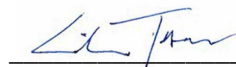
The Dean, Executive Committee, Curriculum Committee, and the Department of Chemistry of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts are requesting the discontinuation of the BS Chemistry Degree effective August 18, 2023.

For many years the Department of Chemistry has offered two undergraduate programs: the BS Chemistry degree (124 credits), and the BS degree with a Major in Chemical Sciences (120 credits). The BS Chemistry degree has little flexibility, with only one single elective course. Moreover, given the strict requirements, and the fact that enrollments in most upper-level CHEM courses are too low to offer them all each semester, the major can be difficult to navigate for students if they have not planned to become chemistry majors upon entering the University. This also precludes many students from moving from some other major to BS Chemistry, unless they are willing, and have the means, to take more than four years to complete their degree. These issues pose barriers to students who did not have opportunities to take AP courses or have excellent science + math experiences in their high school education. These issues tend to impact students from underrepresented groups to a greater extent than others. The Chemical Sciences Major was more flexible than the BS Chemistry degree, but this was always perceived by students to be a consolation prize for those who start BS Chemistry but are unable to complete the degree, or who choose a chemistry major late and have no chance of completing the BS Chemistry degree in four years.

Deactivation of the BS Chemistry degree will not have any impact on students who wish to pursue a BS degree in Chemistry. In Fall 2022, LSA approved to no longer admit students to the Chemical Sciences Major in favor of reinstating the dormant Chemistry BS Major; the reinstatement of the major creates the opportunity to pursue a nearly identical plan to that of the BS Chemistry degree. However, the Chemistry BS Major has considerably more flexibility and includes advisory coursework for a variety of different career paths, including graduate studies in chemistry, attending health-related professional schools (e.g., Medical, Dental, etc.), or entering the chemical industry. The revised Chemistry BS Major provides more options and increases the accessibility of a degree in chemistry to a broader swath of UM undergraduate students.

We request the Board of Regents approve the discontinuation of the BS Chemistry degree effective August 18, 2023.

Recommended by:



Linda Tesar  
Acting Dean  
Senior Faculty Advisor to the Dean on  
Strategic Budgetary Affairs  
Alan V. Deardorff Professor of Economics  
College of Literature, Science, and the  
Arts

Recommended and endorsed by:



Laurie K. McCauley  
Provost and Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs