

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Shearer, Scott](#); [Osborne, Jeanne](#)
Cc: [Williams, Valarie](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Griffiths, Rob](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Hunt, Ryan](#); [Washburn, Shannon](#); [Kress, Cathann](#); [Talbot, Ann](#); [Warren, Adam](#); [Eveland, Jessica](#)
Subject: Proposal to change the name of the Construction Systems Management Major
Date: Friday, September 18, 2026 8:38:33 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Scott and Jeanne,

The proposal from the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering to change the name of the Construction Systems Management major to the Construction Management major (leading to the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture) was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on September 16, 2026. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

The proposal will now be sent to the Board of Trustees for its meeting on November 19, 2026. If approved by the Board, my office will work with you on the submission process with the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Once fully approved, the Office of the University Registrar will work with you on any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Val Williams (.1415), or me.

I wish you success with this important program development.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Office of Academic Affairs

University Square South, 15 E. 15th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

614-292-5881 Office

smith.70@osu.edu

Assisted by:

Katie Reed

Executive Assistant

From: [Osborne, Jeanne](#)
To: [Smith, Randy](#)
Cc: [Reed, Katie](#); [Shearer, Scott](#); [Lewandowski, Monica](#)
Subject: Requesting CAA Approval for a name change - Construction Systems Management BS C to Construction Management BS C
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 3:57:55 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[CSM Name Change Proposal combined files.pdf](#)

Dear Dr. Smith,

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is requesting Council on Academic Affairs approval for a name change of the undergraduate major 'Construction Systems Management' (CONSYM) to 'Construction Management' (plan code TBD) leading to the BS C, effective AU27.

This name change proposal was initiated after discussion within the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, and consultation with industry stakeholders, and aligns the program with peers across the country, employer expectations, and student strategies for finding programs that will meet their needs. 'Construction Management' is the nationally recognized degree designation and aligns with the program names of the two-year programs at Columbus State Community College and Ohio State ATI, both of which provide important pathways to the four-year degree program. Additionally, the OSU CSM Industry Advisory Council (IAC) has provided support for this proposal (letter of support included in the proposal).

There are no changes to the current curriculum or structure of the major as part of this proposal, and no current students will be impacted.

This proposal has been approved by the faculty of the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering and the CFAES Committee on Academic Affairs. Please let me know if any additional information is needed in support of this request.

Sincerely,

Jeanne



Jeanne M. Osborne

Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs
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'Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change' (Bob Kerrey)

June 3, 2026

614-292-9448

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Jeanne M. Osborne
Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
The Ohio State University
100E Agricultural Administration Building
2120 Fyffe Road
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Jeanne,

I am writing to formally request approval to rename the Bachelor of Science degree program currently titled Construction Systems Management (CSM) to Construction Management (CM). This request follows extensive discussion and review within the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (FABE), consultation with industry stakeholders, and consideration of the program's long-term strategic positioning within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and The Ohio State University.

The proposed name change reflects a strategic effort to align the program with national academic conventions, employer expectations, and student search behaviors while maintaining the program's existing curriculum, learning outcomes, accreditation status, and educational rigor. As documented in the attached proposal, Construction Management is the dominant and nationally recognized degree designation among peer institutions and across the construction industry. Major construction programs at institutions such as Purdue University, Michigan State University, the University of Florida, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and the University of Washington all utilize the Construction Management designation, as do competing programs within Ohio. The current Construction Systems Management title is unique and historically meaningful to Ohio State; however, it does not immediately communicate the nature of the program to prospective students, parents, academic advisors, transfer students, and employers. As a result, the program faces unnecessary challenges related to visibility, recruitment, and external recognition.

Importantly, the proposed name change does not represent a modification of the program's curriculum or educational objectives. The existing curriculum already reflects the competencies expected of leading Construction Management programs, including project management, scheduling, estimating, safety, contract administration, construction technologies, business management, and applied engineering principles. Rather, this proposal seeks to ensure that the degree title accurately reflects the content, outcomes, and professional preparation already delivered through the program. The change is therefore one of external clarity and market positioning rather than academic restructuring.

The proposal has received overwhelming support from both internal and external stakeholders. Following review and discussion, the FABE Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously, 11-0, in support of the proposed name change. Subsequently, the full FABE faculty voted unanimously, 16-0, to endorse the

proposal and advance it through the university approval process. These votes reflect a shared recognition that the current program title no longer serves the best interests of our students, alumni, industry partners, or the university.

The program's Industry Advisory Council has likewise provided formal written support for the change. The Council noted that Construction Management is the nationally recognized terminology used throughout the construction industry and emphasized that aligning Ohio State's degree title with industry standards will improve visibility, reduce confusion, and strengthen graduate competitiveness in recruitment and hiring processes. The Council further expressed its belief that the name change represents an important step in strengthening the program's alignment with workforce needs and enhancing Ohio State's leadership position in construction education.

The proposed change also supports several important institutional objectives. Student recruitment increasingly depends on keyword-based online searches and program recognition. Construction Management is a widely searched and readily understood term among prospective students, whereas Construction Systems Management is not commonly used outside Ohio State. Furthermore, many of the program's transfer pathways, including those at Ohio State ATI and Columbus State Community College, utilize Construction Management terminology. Aligning the bachelor's degree title with these pathways will improve discoverability, reduce confusion, and strengthen enrollment pipelines.

Construction remains one of the largest industries in Ohio and the United States, with growing demand for professionals capable of managing increasingly complex projects involving advanced technologies, digital construction workflows, sustainability initiatives, and integrated project delivery methods. The proposed name change better communicates the program's role in preparing graduates for these opportunities while reinforcing Ohio State's commitment to workforce development, industry engagement, and educational excellence.

Given the strong support from faculty governance and industry stakeholders, I respectfully request your support and approval to advance the proposed name change from Construction Systems Management to Construction Management through the college and university review process. I believe this change represents a strategic, low-risk, and high-impact opportunity to strengthen the visibility, competitiveness, and long-term success of the program while preserving the academic excellence that has characterized construction education within FABE for decades.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be pleased to discuss the proposal further or provide any additional information that may assist in the review process.

Sincerely,



Scott A. Shearer, PhD, PE
Professor and Chair
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**Proposal to Rename the “Construction Systems Management”
Degree Program to “Construction Management”**

*Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
The Ohio State University*

April 10, 2026

The **Construction Systems Management (CSM)** program at The Ohio State University has developed a strong reputation for producing technically competent graduates equipped to support the modern construction industry. However, the current program title does not fully align with national naming conventions, industry expectations, or student search behaviors. As a result, the program is at a structural disadvantage in visibility, recruitment, and external recognition. This proposal recommends renaming the program to **Construction Management (CM)** to better position it competitively among peer institutions, improve clarity for prospective students and employers, and enhance long-term program growth.

Across the United States, the dominant and widely recognized degree title in this discipline is “Construction Management.” Leading programs at institutions such as Purdue University, University of Florida, Michigan State University, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and University of Washington all use the CM designation. Within Ohio, competitor institutions including Kent State University, University of Cincinnati, and Bowling Green State University similarly employ the CM title. This consistency has established “Construction Management” as the standard nomenclature understood by students, parents, academic advisors, and employers. In contrast, the term “Construction Systems Management” is less common nationally and may create ambiguity regarding program focus, particularly for audiences unfamiliar with Ohio State’s historical naming conventions.

From a workforce perspective, employers consistently seek graduates with competencies in project management, cost estimating, scheduling, safety management, contract administration, and construction technologies. These expectations are closely aligned with the body of knowledge defined by accreditation organizations such as American Council for Construction Education and industry groups like Associated General Contractors of America. Importantly, employers overwhelmingly use the term “Construction Management” in job titles, position descriptions, and recruitment pipelines. This alignment between degree title and industry language plays a significant role in resume screening, internship placement, and early-career hiring. While Ohio State’s CSM graduates meet or exceed these expectations in practice, the program name does not immediately communicate this alignment, potentially placing students at a perceptual disadvantage.

The proposed name change would improve the program’s clarity and marketability without altering its academic rigor or curricular structure. The existing curriculum already reflects the competencies associated with leading CM programs, including construction methods, project controls, business management, and applied engineering principles. Therefore, this change is not a repositioning of program content, but rather a correction of external signaling. It ensures that the program’s title accurately reflects what is already being delivered.

Student recruitment considerations further support this transition. Prospective students increasingly rely on keyword-based searches when exploring academic programs. “Construction Management” is a high-frequency, nationally recognized search term, whereas “Construction Systems Management” is not commonly used outside Ohio State. This discrepancy reduces the program’s visibility in digital search environments and limits its ability to compete for top students, particularly those comparing multiple institutions.

On the other hand, the 2+2 transfer pathway represents a significant recruitment channel for the CSM program. Many associate degree programs offering construction education are titled “Construction Management,” including the two-year programs at Columbus State Community College and Ohio State ATI. As a result, prospective transfer students are more likely to search for and expect a similarly named bachelor’s program. A transition to the CM designation would align the program with common search behavior, improve discoverability, and better meet the expectations of both first-year and transfer students, thereby reducing confusion during the college selection process.

The name change would also strengthen the program’s positioning within Ohio State’s broader academic portfolio. The university is widely recognized for excellence in engineering, business, and applied sciences. The term “Construction Management” more clearly communicates the program’s integration of these domains and aligns with interdisciplinary trends in the construction industry, including digital construction, data-driven project delivery, and integrated project teams. This clarity is especially important as the program seeks to expand partnerships with industry, increase enrollment, and contribute to workforce development initiatives across Ohio and the Midwest.

Peer benchmarking indicates that programs using the CM designation tend to experience stronger brand recognition and more direct alignment with employer recruiting pipelines. This is particularly evident in institutions with large, well-established construction programs, where naming consistency supports national rankings, industry advisory engagement, and alumni placement. For Ohio State to maintain and extend its leadership position, adopting the standard nomenclature is a necessary step.

In conclusion, renaming the “Construction Systems Management” program to “Construction Management” represents a strategic, low-risk, and high-impact action. It aligns the program with national academic standards, meets employer expectations, enhances student recruitment, and strengthens institutional branding. The proposed change does not require significant curricular revision but instead ensures that the program’s title accurately reflects its content, outcomes, and value to stakeholders. This adjustment will position Ohio State to compete more effectively for students, faculty, and industry partnerships while maintaining its commitment to excellence in construction education.



Date: May 18, 2026

To: Dr. Scott Shearer
Department of Food, Agricultural and
Biological Engineering
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
The Ohio State University

Dear Dr. Shearer,

On behalf of the Industry Advisory Council (IAC) for the Construction Systems Management program, we are writing to formally express our support for the proposed program name change from "Construction Systems Management" to "Construction Management." The Council believes this change represents an important and necessary step in strengthening the program's alignment with national industry standards, employer expectations, and student recruitment trends.

As industry representatives who actively recruit, employ, and collaborate with graduates from The Ohio State University, we recognize the exceptional quality of the program and the preparation this program creates for its students entering the construction industry. The term "Construction Management" is the nationally recognized and widely understood designation across higher education and the construction industry. Aligning Ohio State's program name with this standard terminology will improve visibility, reduce confusion, and better position graduates within competitive hiring environments.

In addition to supporting the proposed name change, the Industry Advisory Council strongly encourages consideration of additional strategic provisions that would further elevate the visibility and long-term growth potential of the program within the university and across the construction industry. While the name change is an important and necessary step, the IAC believes there is also a meaningful opportunity to strengthen the program's institutional position and expand its impact.

As one example, the Council encourages leadership to evaluate the long-term potential for the construction program to operate as its own academic department or similarly distinct academic unit with dedicated strategic direction and identity. The Council believes the construction program currently loses visibility because it exists within the broader Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (FABE), where its identity and industry relevance are not always immediately apparent to prospective students and industry employers.

Given the size, economic importance, and workforce demand associated with the construction industry, the IAC believes the program would benefit from a more visible and independent organizational structure. Establishing the program as its own department would elevate its profile within the university, strengthen external recognition, improve student recruitment, and create clearer alignment with peer construction programs nationally. A more distinct academic identity would also better position the program to expand industry partnerships, attract philanthropic and corporate support, and increase engagement with alumni and professional organizations.

The IAC also believes continued investment in research and faculty development will be critical to the program's future success. Specifically, the IAC supports expanding opportunities for research activity within the construction program and increasing the presence of tenure-track faculty whose expertise aligns with emerging areas of the industry. These areas may include construction technology, project delivery systems, preconstruction services, safety, sustainability, commissioning services, data analytics, and workforce development.



Strengthening the research profile of the program and expanding faculty resources would enhance Ohio State's competitiveness for external funding opportunities, foster innovation and industry collaboration, create opportunities for greater interdisciplinary collaboration across the university while enhancing the student experience through applied research, mentorship, and experiential learning.

The IAC further encourages continued investment in industry engagement initiatives, strategic marketing and outreach efforts, promotion of student learning outcomes, and expansion of transfer pathway partnerships. Collectively, these efforts would strengthen the program's visibility and reinforce Ohio State's leadership position within construction education.

The IAC appreciates the opportunity to provide input on this important initiative and fully supports advancing the proposed program name change through the university approval process. We encourage college and university leadership to view this recommendation as a meaningful opportunity to strengthen the program's visibility, competitiveness, and alignment with the evolving needs of the construction industry.

Sincerely,

Ty Parshall
Chair

OSU CSM Industry Advisory Council (IAC)