

Status: PENDING

**PROGRAM REQUEST**  
Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology

Last Updated: Myers,Dena Elizabeth  
06/06/2011

<b>Fiscal Unit/Academic Org</b>	Plant Cell & Molec Biology - D0380
<b>Administering College/Academic Group</b>	Arts And Sciences
<b>Co-administering College/Academic Group</b>	
<b>Semester Conversion Designation</b>	Deactivated (i.e., program to be held in abeyance for possible future use, but not to be converted at present time, no new admissions shall be possible until reactivated, include effective date of deactivation)
<b>Rationale</b>	The PCMB-MS degree presently serves as an alternative degree option for students in the PCMB-PhD program. No students are directly admitted into the PCMB-MS program. With the deactivation of the PCMB-PhD program the PCMB-MS is no longer viable.
<b>Current Program/Plan Name</b>	Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology
<b>Program/Plan Code Abbreviation</b>	PCMB-MS
<b>Current Degree Title</b>	Master of Science

**Attachments**

- PCMB-MS-deactivation[2].pdf: deactivation proposal  
*(Letter from Program-offering Unit. Owner: Vaessin,Harald Emil Friedrich)*
- PCMB MS and PhD deactivation cover letter.doc: NMS Division of Arts and Sciences cover letter  
*(Letter from the College to OAA. Owner: Andereck,Claude David)*

**Comments**

**Workflow Information**

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Vaessin,Harald Emil Friedrich	05/18/2011 02:56 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Vaessin,Harald Emil Friedrich	05/18/2011 02:59 PM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Andereck,Claude David	05/20/2011 11:12 AM	College Approval
Submitted	Vaessin,Harald Emil Friedrich	05/26/2011 12:25 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Vaessin,Harald Emil Friedrich	05/26/2011 12:27 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Andereck,Claude David	06/03/2011 04:08 PM	College Approval
Approved	Myers,Dena Elizabeth	06/06/2011 08:58 AM	GradSchool Approval
Pending Approval	Cameron,Erin Marie Soave,Melissa A	06/06/2011 08:58 AM	CAA Approval



College of Arts and Sciences

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June 3, 2011

Dena Myers  
Graduate School  
250 University Hall  
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Dear Dena:

It is a pleasure to forward to you for your consideration proposals for the deactivation of the Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology (PCMB) MS and PhD programs. The Departments of Molecular Genetics and PCMB have recently merged into a unified Molecular Genetics Department. The Department has decided on a unified graduate program that incorporates a that the existing PCMB programs would be available as a track within the semester version of the Molecular Genetics programs. At the present time there are twenty students in the PCMB PhD. It is anticipated that these students will complete their course requirements and move to the candidacy examination prior to the start of semesters, thus mitigating the need for an extensive transition plan. Deactivation is requested for 2018 to allow sufficient time for students now in the program to complete all requirements for the degree. Similar considerations apply to the MS degree program, to which no students are directly admitted; the twenty students in the doctoral program at present constitute the pool from which MS recipients would come, and they will have completed all course requirements for the MS by the time semester conversion occurs.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to address them.

Sincerely,

David Andereck  
Professor of Physics  
Associate Dean of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences

**Department of Molecular Genetics**

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To: Office of Academic Affairs

From: Anita Hopper, Chair, Department of Molecular Genetics

Handwritten signature of Anita K. Hopper in blue ink.

Mark Seeger, Associate Chair, Department of Molecular Genetics

Handwritten signature of Mark A. Seeger in black ink.

Date: May 24, 2011

Re: Deactivation of the PCMB MS

The Department of Plant Cell and Molecular Biology (PCMB) recently merged with the Department of Molecular Genetics (approved by the Board of Trustees, February 2011). A driving force behind this merger was the declining number of faculty within PCMB and the limited number (approximately twenty) of PCMB undergraduate majors. As part of the program and curriculum review for the quarter to semester conversion process the PCMB and Molecular Genetics faculties discussed the future of the PCMB Graduate Program (MS and PhD). These discussions took place within our curriculum committees and combined faculty meetings starting in the 2009/2010 academic year and continuing through Winter Quarter 2011. The consensus that emerged from these discussions was that the unified departments support a single graduate program. This graduate program was modified to incorporate tracks that will guide PhD students in coursework selection reflecting their specific research interests. One of these tracks is focused on plant cellular and molecular biology. Many of the courses utilized by the previous PCMB PhD program now serve as electives within the PCMB track of the new Molecular Genetics PhD program. These modifications to the Molecular Genetics PhD program, including deactivation of the PCMB MS and PhD, were approved by a unanimous vote of the faculty (20-0) at our January 2011 joint faculty meeting. The quarter to semester conversion proposal for the re-envisioned Molecular Genetics PhD program is currently under university review.

Students are not admitted directly into the PCMB Masters degree program. Instead, the MS degree is a potential alternative to students unable, for whatever reason, to finish the PhD Program. Currently, twenty students are enrolled in the PCMB PhD Program. Any of these students will have the opportunity to complete a MS degree following existing PCMB Program and Graduate School Handbook policies. Given that it is rare for a student to complete a MS degree from the PCMB Graduate Program, it is likely that no MS degrees will emerge from this group of twenty students. Since no additional students will be admitted into the PCMB Graduate

Program (the last group of students started in Autumn 2010), the potential pool of MS degree students will not increase. Furthermore, any potential MS student should have completed all core curriculum requirements prior to semester conversion in Summer 2012. No students will be negatively impacted nor their progress to degree completion impeded by the proposed deactivation of the PCMB graduate program or the quarter to semester conversion.

We request that the PCMB MS and PhD Programs be officially deactivated at the conclusion of Summer Semester 2018. This will provide seven additional years for the current group of graduate students to complete their degrees. Since the MS degree is used as a potential alternative to the PhD degree, it is important that the MS option continue as long as the PCMB PhD Program is active.