

Board Meeting  
January 16, 2020

ELIMINATE THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COMPARATIVE BIOMEDICAL  
SCIENCE, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND THE GRADUATE  
COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Eliminate the Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Biomedical Science,  
College of Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate College to eliminate the Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Biomedical Science.

For more than 30 years, the College of Veterinary Medicine has consisted of two basic science departments, Comparative Biosciences and Pathobiology, and one clinical science department, Veterinary Clinical Medicine. Based on the recommendation of an internal, university-wide review of doctoral programs in 2013 and on the anticipated merger of the Department of Comparative Biosciences and the Department of Pathobiology, the college proposed restructuring its doctoral education programs by unifying all College of Veterinary Medicine Ph.D. programs into a single doctoral program called Comparative Biomedical Sciences and eliminating the separate, existing

Ph.D. programs in the Department of Comparative Biosciences, the Department of Pathobiology, and the Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine. The proposal was approved by the Senate on October 10, 2016, by the Board of Trustees on January 19, 2017, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education on February 8, 2017. However, the departmental merger proposal was withdrawn from the Senate's April 3, 2017, agenda as the college reexamined the proposed merger.

During this reexamination, implementation of the unification of the Ph.D. programs was delayed. No students have been admitted to or enrolled in the Ph.D. in Comparative Biomedical Sciences, and admission to and enrollment in the college's Ph.D. programs which were phased down as part of the unification proposal continued. At this time, the College of Veterinary Medicine seeks elimination of the Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Biomedical Sciences.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Biosciences and the Doctor of Philosophy in Pathobiology, which were never eliminated and continued to admit and enroll students, will continue within the existing departmental structure. Faculty in both these departments voted unanimously in September 2019 in support of this proposal, and the College of Veterinary Medicine's Executive Committee is supportive as well. No current or prospective students have experienced or will experience any disruption to their ability to apply, be admitted to, enroll in, or complete the Ph.D. in Comparative Biomedical Sciences or the Ph.D. in Pathobiology. No prospective or current students are impacted by the elimination of the Ph.D. in Comparative Biomedical Sciences, which has never admitted or enrolled any students.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.