



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

June 16, 2009

Bobbi Owen
Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
CAMPUS BOX 3290
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3290
crimmins@email.unc.edu
T 919.966.5177
O 919.962.4358
F 919.962.2388
www.chem.unc.edu

MICHAEL T. CRIMMINS
Mary Ann Smith Professor and Chair

Re: Change to the Chemistry BA major

Dear Bobbi:

The department of chemistry has voted on and approved a change to our BA Major. The change makes Chem 430 (Introduction to Biochemistry) a requirement for the BA major replacing an elective. The impetus for this change is that biochemistry is an integral part of the field of chemistry, just as the other sub-disciplines are (Organic, Inorganic, etc). The faculty agree that a basic knowledge of biochemistry is essential for all chemistry majors. Indeed, the American Chemical Society requires a course in biochemistry for a curriculum to be ACS-certified. Thus, this change will have the added benefit of making our BA degree ACS-certified. On paper, this will change the BA in that students will only have one upper division chemistry elective. However, in practice this change will only have a minor impact at most, since currently over 95% of our BA majors take Chem 430 as an elective. Moreover, many of our students currently take more than the required two electives. Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Current Requirements for BA Major, Junior/Senior years:

Required:

- o Chem 480 or 481
- o Chem 550L
- o Other Connections: Distributive or integrative option: three courses, nine hours.

Electives: Choice of two courses from: Chem 421, 430, 441, 450, 451, 482

Proposed Change in Requirements for BA Major Junior/Senior years:

Required:

- o Chem 480 or 481
- o Chem 550L
- o **Chem 430**
- o Other Connections: Distributive or integrative option: three courses, nine hours.

Electives: Choice of **one** course from: Chem 421, 441, 450, 451, 482

Sincerely,

Michael T. Crimmins
Mary Ann Smith Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry