Washington State University
MAJOR CHANGE FORM – REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: If proposing a **new** program (degree) or **extending, moving, consolidating, eliminating or renaming** an existing program (degree), these proposals must first go through the Provost's Office review process. Please do not use this form. Please contact the Provost's Office for directions on processing program (degree) proposals.

SUBMITTING PROPOSAL – Follow the steps on form, then:

- **Submit one electronic copy of complete packet of signed form/rationale statement/supporting documentation and/or edits** to wsu.curriculum@wsu.edu.
- Send the **original stapled packet** PLUS **10 stapled copies** of packet to the **Registrar's Office,** campus mail code 1035.

Department Name Chemistry

1. Check proposed changes:

- ☐ New Plan (Major) *in* _____ CIP#___.____
- ☐ Change name of Plan (Major) *from* _____ *to* _____
- ☐ Revise certification requirements for the Plan (Major) *in* _____
- ☑ Revise Plan (Major) requirements *in* PhD in Chemistry
- ☐ Drop Plan (Major) *in* _____

- ☐ New Sub-Plan (Option) *in* _____ CIP#___.____
- ☐ Change name of Sub-Plan (Option) from _____ *to* _____
- ☐ Revise requirements for the Sub-Plan (Option) *in* _____
- ☐ Drop Sub-Plan (Option) *in* _____

- ☐ New Minor *in* _____ CIP#___.____
- ☐ Change name of Minor from _____ *to* _____
- ☐ Revise Minor requirements *in* _____
- ☐ Drop Minor *in* _____

- ☐ New Certificate *in* _____ CIP#___.____
- ☐ Change name of Certificate from _____ *to* _____
- ☐ Revise Certificate requirements *in* _____
- ☐ Drop Certificate *in* _____

- ☐ Other _____

2. Effective Date: Fall 2015 (Effective date must be for future fall term.) ***Submission deadline is Oct 1st.***
NOTE: Items received after deadlines may be put to the back of the line or forwarded to the following year. Please submit on time.

Contact: Dr. Kirk A. Peterson Phone number: (509) 335-7867
Email: kipeters@wsu.edu Campus mail code: 4630

3. PLEASE ATTACH A RATIONALE STATEMENT giving the reasons for each request marked above, and explaining how this impacts other units in Pullman and other campuses (if applicable).

4. PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND/OR CURRENT CATALOG COPY with edit marks showing requested changes.

5. SIGN AND DATE APPROVALS.

Chair Signature/date	Dean Signature/date	CSC Date
3-2-15	3/2/15	

Chair Signature/date	Dean Signature/date	AAC or GSC Date	Senate Date

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Chemistry

Kirk A. Peterson
Professor and Assoc. Chair
Phone: (509) 335-7867
Email: kipeters@wsu.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Prof. Kirk Peterson, Associate Chair
Department of Chemistry

DATE: February 26, 2015

SUBJECT: Change in Chemistry PhD credits from 34 to 28

On behalf of the Department of Chemistry, I would like to request that our PhD graded coursework requirement be changed from the current minimum of 34 to a minimum of 28 graded credits. As in our original requirements, this could still involve up to nine semester hours selected from non-graduate (300 or 400 level) courses not previously taken by the student and approved by his/her thesis committee. The current request has overwhelming support from the Chemistry faculty and is motivated by the desire to engage our students in their thesis research at an earlier stage in their graduate career. Unlike many of our peer institutions, however, we have no intention of abandoning the formal foundational training in Chemistry that has long been a characteristic of the PhD program in our Department; hence only the very modest decrease in graded credit hours. We anticipate, however, that even this small change will have a noticeable impact on when students can complete their Preliminary Exams and will lead to more timely graduation rates for all our students since they can devote more time in the first two years to research and not just coursework.

Nearly all of our students enter the PhD program with a Bachelors of Science in Chemistry, and thus already have a good background in the fundamentals. We will still require all of our students to complete three out of four graduate "core" courses in Chemistry that represent the

traditional areas of study: Physical (Chem 531), Organic (Chem 542), Analytical (Chem 520), and Inorganic Chemistry (Chem 501). These 9 credits are then augmented by electives specific to a student's degree track and research focus. For example, all Physical Chemistry students also complete Chem 532 (Quantum Chemistry, 3 cr.), Chem 534 (Statistical Mechanics, 3 cr.), Chem 509 (Group Theory, 3 cr.), and Chem 564 (Molecular Phenomena, 3 cr.). The other degree tracks in Chemistry (AER, Inorganic, Organic and Chemistry of Biological Systems, Materials) have analogous course plans. For example the Analytical, Environmental, and Radiochemistry (AER) track requires at least 10 hours of coursework chosen from 10-12 graduate courses in analytical and radiochemistry, e.g., Chem 514 (Mass Spectrometry, 2 cr.), Chem 550 (Nuclear Fuel Cycle, 2 cr.), Chem 529 (Selected Topics in Analytical Chemistry, 2 cr.), etc.. The remainder of the 28 graded credit hours consists of student seminar courses and other lecture courses, both within and outside the department, e.g, Physics, Mathematics, School of Molecular Biosciences, etc., as established by the student in consultation with her or his committee. This change will of course have no effect on students who desire to take courses beyond the 28 credit minimum in order to sufficiently prepare for their thesis research. In summary, we feel that a minimum graded credit requirement of 28 still provides the strong foundational training in Chemistry that makes our students very competitive in their future careers as independent scientists, while providing more of an opportunity to do research at an earlier stage of their graduate degree plan.

The signed Major Change Form accompanies this memo.