Washington State University
MAJOR CHANGE FORM - - REQUIREMENTS
(Submit original signed form and TEN copies to the Registrar's Office, zip 1035.)
See https://www.ronet.wsu.edu/ROPubs/Apps/HomePage.ASP *for this form.*

*Submit an additional copy to the Faculty Senate Office, French Administration 338, zip 1038.

Department Name School of Biological Sciences

1. CHECK PROPOSED CHANGES.

*☐ Change department/program name *from* _____ *to* _____
*☐ New degree or program *in* _____
*☑ Change name of degree *from* M.S. Zoology *to* M.S. Biology
*☐ Drop degree or program *in* _____
*☐ Extend existing degree or program *to* _____ campus

☐ New Major *in* _____
☐ Change name of Major *from* _____ *to* _____
☐ Revise Major requirements *in* _____
☐ Drop Major *in* _____
☐ Revise certification requirements for the Major *in* _____

☐ New Option *in* _____
☐ Revise requirements for the Option *in* _____
☐ Drop Option *in* _____

☐ New Minor *in* _____
☐ Revise Minor requirements *in* _____
☐ Drop Minor *in* _____

☐ New Undergraduate Certificate *in* _____
☐ Revise Undergraduate Certificate requirements *in* _____
☐ Drop Undergraduate Certificate *in* _____

☐ Other _____

Effective term/year Fall 2015

Justine Rupp	335-8649	ruppj@wsu.edu
Contact Person	**Contact Phone No.**	**Contact email**

2. GIVE REASONS FOR EACH REQUEST MARKED ABOVE. *(Attach additional paper if necessary; see reverse side.)* Please see attached.

4. SIGN AND DATE APPROVALS.

[signature] 8 Sept. 2014 [signature] 9/15/2014

Chair Signature/date Dean Signature/date General Education Com/date

Catalog Subcom/date Academic Affairs Com/date Graduate Studies Com/date Senate/Date

Degree Name Change Justification – MS Zoology to MS Biology

In the spring of 2012, the School of Biological Sciences faculty voted unanimously to change the name of the MS graduate degree in Zoology (thesis option) to a MS in Biology (thesis option). Please note that there is an existing (non-thesis) degree in Biology (and differences in curriculum requirements are highlighted below). Here, we propose to change the degree name for the thesis MS degree in Zoology to a thesis MS degree in Biology.

In the past decades, the Biological Sciences have become increasingly interdisciplinary and have moved away from organism-centric approaches. As such, the contemporary biosciences are no longer defined by classical and historical divisions between animals, plants, and microbes. Inquiry at individual levels of biological organization such as genes, organisms and populations has been replaced by integrative science and inquiry that requires knowledge at all levels. Thus, a degree in "Zoology" therefore no longer reflects the training that our students receive in SBS.

We propose to change the degree name from "Zoology" to "Biology" to reflect the integrative training that students now receive. While a large part of training in SBS involves the "study of animals" (Zoology) the research expertise of our faculty and thereby the training of our graduate students goes well beyond the narrow boundaries set by this nomenclature. In addition, a search of the 71 Universities comprising the list of American Association of Universities (AAUs) and WSU's peer institutions showed that only 3 of these schools offered degrees in Zoology. Of the remainder, the most commonly offered degrees were in Biology, EEB (ecology, evolution and behavior or an analog) and Plant Biology.

Thus, modernizing our degree name will make us more competitive for graduate recruitment. When using search engines for graduate programs (e.g. www.stateuniversity.com, www.gradschools.com, www.princetonreview.com) it was found that students search for "Biology" 3 times as often as "Zoology" when exploring graduate degree programs. In addition to the fact that a degree name change from Zoology to Biology will increase the visibility of our graduate program, it will also allow graduates more flexibility.

Students currently enrolled in the MS in Zoology program will be given the option to complete their program under the previous program name (i.e., Zoology) or switch to the new degree name (i.e., Biology).

Below, please find the differences in program requirements between the Biology Non-Thesis degree and the proposed thesis degree that will result from the name change from Zoology to Biology. We request to maintain the non-thesis MS degree because it has been a very useful degree for students who wish to go into teaching, and with the addition of new faculty in Biology Education (Dr. Andy Cavagnetto), this degree track will continue to track students.

Biology Non-Thesis M.S. Degree Requirements:

Graduate School—a minimum of 30 hours total credits are required. 26 of these credits must be graded, and a minimum of 17 hours must be at the 500-level. (see Graduate School Policies and Procedures online at http://www.gradsch.wsu.edu/CurrentStudents/PoliciesAndProcedures/).
School of Biological Sciences—a minimum of 12 graded credits from the School of Biological Sciences (Biol) is required for the non-thesis degree program in Biology. The program must

include course work from all 3 areas of the core curriculum (ecology, evolution, physiology) within the School of Biological Sciences. As a part of the graded credits from the school non-thesis M.S. students are expected to take one credit of special topics seminar (Biol 589) and the teaching training course (Biol 585). In the student's final semester, his/ her committee will hold a ballot meeting, scheduled by the Graduate School, to determine whether the student has satisfactorily met all the requirements of the program. Students will need to register for a minimum of 2 credits 702 (non-thesis option) for the semester or summer during which the examination or balloting is scheduled. Non-thesis M.S. students are exempt from the general requirement to present a seminar to the school.

Biology Thesis M.S. Degree Requirements

Graduate School—a minimum of 30 hours credit is required for the thesis degree; 21 of these credits must be graded and 15 hours must be at the 500-level (see Graduate School Policies and Procedures online at http://www.gradsch.wsu.edu/CurrentStudents/PoliciesAndProcedures/). 6 hours maximum of non-graduate credit (300- or 400-level) graded coursework is allowed.
School of Biological Sciences—a minimum of 9 graded credits from the School of Biological Sciences (Biol) is required for the thesis degree program in Biology. As a part of the graded credits from the school MS students are expected to enroll in 1 credit of special topics seminar (e.g., Biol 589) and present a seminar to the school based on the students thesis research (i.e., one credit of Biol 500). Students are also required to take a grant writing course (Biol 582) and a graduate teaching in biology course (Biol 585). Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 2 credits of M.S. research (Biol 700) each semester that they are enrolled and in the semester or summer that they take their final exam. As such, a minimum of 8 Biol 700 credits is required for degree completion.