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* Ph.D. Zoology *to* Ph.D. 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

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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.

Chair Signature/date 8 Sept 2014 | Dean Signature/date | 9/9/14 General Education Com/date

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

Degree Name Change Justification – PhD Zoology to PhD Biology

In the spring of 2012, the School of Biological Sciences faculty voted unanimously to change the name of the Ph.D. graduate degree in Zoology to a PhD 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 Inquiry at individual levels of biological organization such as genes, organisms and populations has been replaced by integrative science and inquiry that requires knowledge at all levels.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 PhD 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). Curriculum Requirements for the PhD in Biology will remain unchanged from the previous revisions that referred to a PhD in Zoology which was approved by the faculty senate in 2011.