

University of Toronto Closure of an Existing Program Graduate Proposal

Section 1

Closure Proposed: Collaborative Doctoral Program in Biomolecular Structure	
Department / Unit (if applicable): N/A	
Faculty / Academic Division: Medicine	
Faculty / Academic Division contact: Acting Vice Dean AvrumGotlieb	
Department / Unit contact: Dr. James Rini, Departments of Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry	
Effective date program will be closed to new admissions: January 1, 2012	
Effective date of full closure of program: December 31, 2012 (or earlier if the remaining students have graduated)	
Version Date: 21 February, 2012	

Section 2

1. Brief Summary

This proposal is for the closing of the Collaborative Doctoral Program in Biomolecular Structure. It is a collaborative program at the Ph.D. level only and no portion of it will continue to operate. There are currently two PhD students registered in the collaborative program and they have completed the CP's requirements. The participating departments agree to the closure. They are: Departments of Biochemistry, Chemistry, Medical Biophysics and Molecular Genetics.

2. Rationale

The Collaborative Doctoral Program in Biomolecular Structure involves approximately 20 faculty members from the Departments of Biochemistry, Chemistry, Medical Biophysics and Molecular Genetics. The program was started some 15 years ago to promote teaching and research in the broad area of biomolecular structure and since its inception 5 students have completed the program and there are currently two students enrolled in it (both of whom will probably graduate in June 2012).

Over the past two decades the participating departments have developed tremendous strength in the area of structural biology and the needs of students training in this area are well-served without a separate program. In fact, it has been clear for some time that students no longer see the program as an endeavor that adds value. For these reasons it was decided that the program should be closed.

3. Impact on other programs/units of the proposed closure

The decision to close the program stemmed from a meeting of the Program Committee held on December 16th, 2011. All core faculty members of the collaborative program were consulted and of those who provided feedback all were in agreement with closing the program. The four chairs of the participating departments were also informed of the decision to close the program and all of them supported the decision to do so.

There will be no negative impact associated with closing the program. The courses most closely associated with the program, JBB2026H (Protein Structure Folding and Design) and JBB2025H (Protein Crystallography), were mounted as joint courses independent of it and they will continue to be offered.

4. Student Accommodation

Graduate breakdown

	<i>Year 6</i>	<i>Year 7</i>
<i>Current enrolment PhD</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

Both of the students currently enrolled in the program have been consulted with regard to closure of the program. Both of the students have completed the requirements of the program so no accommodations need be made. One of the students will be defending her thesis on March 22, 2012 and the other has a tentative defense date of Apr 16, 2012. The program will remain open until both students graduate.

As noted above, the needs of students working in the general area of biomolecular structure are amply

met by the activities of their home departments.

5. Faculty / Staff Accommodation

Closure of the program will have no impact on the participating faculty.

6. Governance Process

	<i>Levels of Approval Required</i>
<i>Decanal / Provostial Sign Off</i>	
	Faculty/Divisional Council (approval of closure of minors, where there is a continuing (specialist or major)
<i>Submission to Provost's Office</i>	
	AP&P (approval of program closures: undergrad specialists/majors; minors where there is no specialist of major))
	Academic Board (approval of degree closures)
	Executive Committee of Governing Council (executive confirms degree, grad program, diploma closures)
<i>Inclusion in Annual report to Quality Council</i>	
<i>Inclusion in Annual report to MTCU (in case of closure of degree)</i>	

Developed by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs April 4, 2011