

Cover Sheet: Request 11005

Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics

Info

Process	Program Change name Ugrad/Pro
Status	Pending
Submitter	Sarajedini,Vicki Lynn vicсарaj@ufl.edu
Created	5/19/2016 10:20:51 AM
Updated	9/25/2016 6:27:46 PM
Description of request	<p>One of our program goals is to increase the number of majors in our department. Based on an evaluation from an outside visiting committee and discussions with our current students, changing the BS degree name from "astronomy" to "astrophysics" would likely increase the number of students that enroll for this degree. Since the current Bachelor of Science degree in Astronomy requires eight courses in physics, this change makes the degree program a better reflection of the course content.</p> <p>We are not requesting any change to the Bachelor of Arts in Astronomy, which would remain a separate degree track in our department.</p>

Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Department	Approved	CLAS - Astronomy 011629000	Telesco, Charles Michael		5/22/2016
No document changes					
College	Recycled	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Pharies, David A	Need consultation with Physics.	9/13/2016
No document changes					
Department	Approved	CLAS - Astronomy 011629000	Telesco, Charles Michael		9/23/2016
Added Astro-uccconsult.pdf					9/23/2016
Added Physics-letter.pdf					9/23/2016
College	Approved	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Pharies, David A		9/23/2016
No document changes					
AP for Undergraduate Affairs	Approved	PV - Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs	Lindner, Angela S		9/25/2016
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Pending	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			9/25/2016
No document changes					
Faculty Senate Steering Committee					
No document changes					
Faculty Senate					

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
No document changes					
Academic Affairs					
No document changes					
Board of Trustees Notified					
No document changes					
Office of the Registrar					
No document changes					
OIPR Notified					
No document changes					
Student Academic Support System					
No document changes					
Catalog					
No document changes					
College Notified					
No document changes					

Program-Major/|Change_Name for request 11005

Info

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Form version: 1

Responses

Current Degree Program NameBachelor of Science in Astronomy

CIP Code400201

Requested Name ChangeChange the name of the degree program.

Proposed Degree Program NameBachelor of Science in Astrophysics

Effective TermEarliest Available

Effective YearEarliest Available

Pedagogical Rationale/JustificationSeveral years ago, a Visiting Committee composed of distinguished scientists and educators conducted a review of the Department of Astronomy and its various academic and research programs. One recommendation the Visiting Committee provided with regard to increasing the number of undergraduate B.S. degree majors was to change the name of the Astronomy degree to reflect the significant number of physics courses that are required. They suggested that we change the name of the B.S. degree in "Astronomy" to a B.S. degree in "Astrophysics."

We have polled the department faculty, and there is general agreement that this name change is something we would like to pursue. In addition, we have conducted an informal poll of undergraduate students in our upper-division astronomy courses and the members of the Undergraduate Astrophysics Society and found that there is general agreement that changing the name to 'Astrophysics' could help us to increase the number of B.S. majors. We have discussed this name change with the chair of the Department of Physics. He has, in turn, brought the matter to the Physics faculty and they have no objections with our efforts to change the name of our B.S. degree.

Assessment Data ReviewWe are not proposing any changes to the curriculum and therefore our Student Learning Outcomes and program goals remain the same. The current course requirements for the degree require eight (8) physics courses, seven (7) astronomy courses, and four (4) math courses. Based on information we have gathered and described in the Justification above, the name change will positively impact our program goal of increasing the number of undergraduate majors in our department.

Academic Learning Compact and Academic Assessment PlanThere are no changes

to the Academic Learning Compact or Academic Assessment Plan that would result from the proposed change.

External Consultation Results (departments with potential overlap or interest in proposed course, if any)

Department	Name and Title
_____	_____
Phone Number	E-mail
_____	_____
Comments	

Department	Name and Title
_____	_____
Phone Number	E-mail
_____	_____
Comments	

Department	Name and Title
_____	_____
Phone Number	E-mail
_____	_____
Comments	

From: Ingersent, Kevin ingersent@ufl.edu
Subject: Re: Fwd: B.S. in Astrophysics
Date: September 22, 2016 at 4:15 PM
To: Sarajedini,Vicki Lynn vicki@astro.ufl.edu

IK

Dear Vicki:

I have consulted with our Department Advisory Committee and other interested parties. Nobody has raised any concern that would lead the department to reconsider the position it took when consulted about the same matter in 2012.

The Department of Physics has no objection to the proposed change in the name of your B.S. program from "Astronomy" to "Astrophysics".

Best regards,

Kevin

On 9/21/2016 2:55 PM, Sarajedini,Vicki Lynn wrote:

Hi Kevin,

I just wanted to follow up on the email I sent you last week concerning changing the name of our major from astronomy to astrophysics. Did you have any questions? Thanks,

Vicki

Begin forwarded message:

*From: *Vicki Sarajedini <vicsaraj@ufl.edu <<mailto:vicsaraj@ufl.edu>>>
*Subject: **B.S. in Astrophysics*
*Date: *September 12, 2016 at 3:48:22 PM EDT
*To: *"Ingersent, Kevin" <ingersent@ufl.edu <<mailto:ingersent@ufl.edu>>>
*Cc: *"Charles M. Telesco" <telesco@astro.ufl.edu <<mailto:telesco@astro.ufl.edu>>>

Hello Kevin,

A few years ago our department was working to have the name of our major changed from "Astronomy" to "Astrophysics" for the Bachelor of Science degree. The course requirements for this major include 7 physics courses plus 2 physics labs which constitutes about half of the total course requirements (see below). We felt that the name change would better reflect the requirements for the major. It was also suggested to us by our visiting committee, who evaluated the department back in 2012, that the name change may help us to increase the number of majors in the degree. The undergraduate students in our program were also in favor of this change. Ata was the associate chair of our department at the time and consulted with the physics chair John Yelton to get approval from physics. This is required for any sort of change with potential overlap or interests with another department. I'm attaching his email approval here.

The request was made to the UCC back in 2012 but was denied primarily because the request has been submitted through an incorrect category (Undergraduate Curriculum Change rather than Undergraduate Degree Program). They also wanted to see numbers on faculty support for the change. Unfortunately, due to changes in our department administration and our short memories, the matter fell under the radar and did not resurface until we started looking into what had happened just this past spring.

Would you be able to poll your faculty or some representative group or committee to discuss this matter and let us know if you can support our request? Charlie and I are also happy to talk with you further about this. Thanks very much.

Vicki Sarajedini

Bachelor of Science