

Freshman Option for Direct Matriculation on the Providence Campus

A. Program Information: General descriptive information about the program.

This proposal seeks to adjust the University of Rhode Island’s matriculation procedures to provide URI freshmen the option for direct access to the B.S. Clinical Laboratory Science Program/Biotechnology Manufacturing Option on the Providence Campus. The program currently enrolls only non-traditional students.

1. Name of institution.

University of Rhode Island

2. Name of department, division, school or college.

Division of Academic Affairs

College of the Environment and Life Sciences
Department of Cell and Molecular Biology
Program in Biotechnology and Clinical Laboratory Science

3. Title of program and federal Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code.

Freshman Option for Direct Matriculation on the Providence campus.

4. Intended initiation date of program change and anticipated date for granting first degrees or certificates.

Initiation September 2008
First degrees granted May 2012

5. Intended location of program.

Providence campus, University of Rhode Island

6. Description of institutional review and approval process. DATE APPROVED

_____ Jay Sperry _____ 7/17/07 _____
Department

_____ Dennis Nixon _____ 11/26/07 _____
College

_____ John McCray _____ 7/20/07 _____
Vice Provost for Urban Programs

Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee

Faculty Senate

7. Summary description of the proposed program.

This plan adjusts the University of Rhode Island's matriculation procedures to formalize and make explicit the option for direct matriculation of freshmen into the BS Clinical Laboratory Science Program/Biotechnology Manufacturing Option on the Providence Campus. This plan will formalize the process, specify the conditions necessary to allow freshmen to matriculate directly on the Providence Campus and ensure quality.

Currently, between 20-25 nontraditional students are admitted to the University's Providence campus each year to major in Biotechnology Manufacturing. This plan would allow freshmen to seek admission to the program. Freshmen applicants would elect to attend the Providence campus on their application form but will be considered part of the overall admissions cohort. Freshmen would attend courses in a Learning Community model, in order to enhance a sense of connection among nonresidential students. Sophomores, juniors and seniors would be integrated into existing advanced courses available in a variety of formats at the Providence Campus. University regulations currently permit students to take up to 6 credits per semester in Kingston without additional fees and provide procedures for students changing major and/or campus.

The Biotechnology Manufacturing Program is currently active on the URI Providence Campus. It has been in existence for three years, offering admissions to non-traditional students and a few traditional students who transferred from other programs in Kingston. The program was developed with input from the rapidly-emerging life sciences industry in the region. The program received over \$1.5M in funding from the Governor's Office, the General Assembly, The RI Human Resources Investment Council, The RI Tech Collective/BIOGroup, the US Department of Labor, Amgen, Pfizer, and others in the life sciences industry. A dedicated Biotechnology Center was developed, encompassing a lecture room, three Biotechnology Manufacturing Laboratories (cell culture/upstream bioprocessing/downstream bioprocessing), a Cytotechnology Laboratory, faculty offices, and administrative offices. Four faculty members, (two full-time lecturers and two part-time instructors), all with extensive industry and teaching experience, were appointed. The current Director of Biotechnology and Clinical Laboratory Science Programs had his academic load increased and his student affairs load decreased in order to provide overall administration and support to the new program.

The University will offer General Education and elective courses to meet the needs of new students admitted to attend the University in Providence, as well as additional elective courses. New sections of courses fulfilling the General Education requirements will be added at the Providence Campus. These are in addition to those new courses offered in the Biotechnology Manufacturing Program and the MS Clinical laboratory

Science Program (which offers several upper undergraduate level courses on an ongoing basis) and in addition to General Education courses currently offered for nontraditional students through the College of Continuing Education.

A quality curriculum will be delivered according to University policies and procedures. Course in the target major will be taught by a combination of existing faculty teaching in the program and existing faculty teaching overload or in load (in mutual agreement of the faculty members, their department chairs, and deans). Faculty members are currently in Cell and Molecular Biology, which is responsible for monitoring the quality of their offerings. Criteria for admissions to the University will be uniform and independent of site. All other University policies and procedures will apply as well. General Education offerings will cover as wide a selection as the learning communities in Kingston and will be taught by instructors appointed by home departments.

For the purpose of evaluation and oversight, the Providence Campus Oversight Committee will oversee the program and review the overall program every four years. The Biotechnology Manufacturing Program will be reviewed every three years on a staggered basis in accordance with the University's current policies.

Academic advising, both general and program specific, is currently available at the Providence Campus during the day and evenings. The URI providence Campus already provides student services, including peer counseling, an Academic Skills Center, which includes a Writing Center, tutoring, and Disability Services; and an active arts program with ongoing exhibits and shows. URI Providence has a Student Government Board with active programming, a modern Library, computing facilities, and food services. Since most activity at the Providence Campus currently occurs in the evening, these resources are underutilized during the daytime and can accommodate additional students.

The Providence Campus of the University of Rhode Island is a new educational facility with many connections to the local community. The existing undergraduate and graduate biotechnology and clinical laboratory science programs at the Providence Campus have developed relationships with Providence-area agencies and businesses, allowing students to participate in applied research, internships, and practice in a community context in the biotechnology, biomedical sciences, pharmaceutical, medical laboratory, and related industries. Current placements include RI Department of Health, RI Blood Center, RI Hospital, Miriam Hospital, Women and Infants' Hospital, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, Quest Diagnostics, Amgen, RenaMed, Neurotech, Spherics, EpiVax, HybriGene, Avant Immunotherapeutics, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Cambrex, Genzyme, Pfizer, Abbott, and many others.

Allowing the admissions of traditional, as well as the current non-traditional, students to this program will strengthen the ties with the broader life sciences and health care industries in the region. These industries are among the fastest growing in the state and the region and have been supportive of the development and operations of these programs. Traditional students will benefit, as the nontraditional students have, from a

professionally-oriented program, in a state-of-the-art facility, taught by outstanding faculty.

Since the overall number of students in the program will not increase, but only the proportion of nontraditional and traditional students, there are no changes in the resources required (faculty and staff, administration, instructional resources, library resources, facilities, capital equipment, and financial).