



Central Washington University
Board of Trustees
July 21, 2017

ACTION – New Degree, Chemistry Major, Bachelor of Arts

The Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry, in conjunction with the STEM Teaching Program Minor, prepares students to teach chemistry at the high-school, junior-high, and middle-school levels. This degree also prepares students for careers in the health sciences, industry, business, and law, where a knowledge of chemistry in applied settings is required.

Washington State and the United States, more broadly, are experiencing a severe shortage of STEM teachers, a shortage the federal Department of Education expects to continue for the next two decades. The STEM Teaching Program Minor is an innovative new teacher professional preparation program based on the UTeach curriculum developed at University of Texas at Austin and successfully implemented at numerous institutions across the United States. CWU's STEM Teaching Program is funded through a \$2.2-million grant from the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS).

CWU currently offers a Chemistry Teaching Major BA; however, it only prepares students to teach at the secondary level. The new Chemistry Bachelor of Arts degree is designed to enable students to seek endorsement and certification to teach Chemistry in grades 5 through 12. As such, if the new degree is approved, CWU will phase out the existing Chemistry teaching program.

The Faculty Senate approved this new degree program on May 31, 2017 (Motion No. 16-85).

We recommend the following motion:

The Board of Trustees of Central Washington University endorses the recommendation of the Faculty Senate and approves the Chemistry Major, Bachelor of Arts.

Submitted:

Katherine P. Frank
Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Life

Approved for submission:

James L. Gaudino
President