



Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

Meeting Date: **September 10, 2026**

Agenda Item: **2.8**

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

Committee: **Academic & Personnel Committee**

Action Item: **Biology-Food Science Concentration Elimination - WSC**

This proposal will formally terminate the Biology-Food Science concentration in the Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences degree program from the Nebraska State College System's formal list of academic offerings at Wayne State College.

The elimination of this concentration was proposed by the appropriate department chair and school dean in February 2017. The proposal was reviewed and recommended by WSC's Academic Policies Committee at first and second readings in February and March 2017, and approved by VPAA Steve Elliott on 8 March 2017.

A routine audit of WSC's academic offerings listed on the NSCS website revealed that the Biology-Food Science concentration still appears. A review of Board materials from 2017 and 2018 found no evidence that the proposal to eliminate the concentration had been presented to the Board. This delinquent proposal is provided to rectify the omission.

The System Office recommends approval of the elimination of the Biology-Food Science Concentration at Wayne State College.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Terminate the Biology-Food Science Concentration

Wayne State College

Proposal to Terminate the Biology-Food Science Concentration in the Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences Degree Program

1. Descriptive Information

- A. Name of Institution: Wayne State College
- B. Name of Program: Biology-Food Science concentration in the Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences
- C. Degree/credential to be awarded graduates of the program: NA
- D. Other programs offered in this field by the institution: BS, Life Sciences, Biology concentration; BS, Family & Consumer Sciences, Foods & Nutrition concentration; BS, Chemistry, Fermentation Sciences
- E. CIP code: 01.1001
- F. Administrative units for the program: Department of Life Sciences; School of Science, Health, & Criminal Justice
- G. Proposed delivery site(s) and type(s) of delivery, if applicable: NA
- H. Proposed date (term/year) the concentration will be terminated: Fall 2017 (*de facto*), Fall 2026 (*de jure*)
- I. Description of Program Change

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Rationale

The Biology-Food Science concentration was developed circa 2000 as part of a 3+1 transfer agreement between WSC and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. (Concrete documentation of this is lacking.) Between 2000 and 2017, only 2 or 3 students started in the program, and none completed the concentration prior to graduating or otherwise leaving the institution. It was therefore determined in 2017 that the concentration was non-viable.

Proposed Catalog Changes

No changes are needed to the current WSC catalog. The concentration last appeared in WSC's 2016-2017 Academic Catalog and has not appeared in any subsequent catalog.

2. Centrality to Role and Mission

The proposed termination of the Biology-Food Science concentration in the BS in Life Sciences continues WSC's efforts to streamline curricular offerings and realize efficiencies by eliminating programs that lack requisite demand.

3. Evidence of Need and Demand

In the approximately seventeen years that the concentration was offered, WSC had no graduates and only a handful of declared students.

4. Adequacy of Resources

- A. Faculty and Staff Resources: NA
- B. Physical Facilities: NA
- C. Instructional Equipment and Information Resources: NA
- D. Budget Projections for the first five years of the program: NA

5. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Food Science (CIP 01.1001). The university conferred 51 bachelor's degrees, 13 master's degrees, and 5 doctoral degrees in the field in 2024-2025, per CCPE's degree and certificate dashboard.

6. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education

As part of the goal of “meeting educational needs through exemplary institutions,” the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education encourages institutions to “Eliminat[e] existing programs and services that are non-viable or marginal in terms of outcomes, costs, and centrality to the role and mission of the institution” (4-2).

Institutions are also encouraged to “eliminat[e] program areas where there is little need or demand” (7-4). The Biology-Food Science concentration was a non-viable program with little demand.

Table 1: Projected Expenses

NA

Table 2: Revenue Resources

NA