

Master of Science in Chemistry Revision

SUNY Oswego - Chemistry Department

The State Education Department requires re-registration of a program in which significant changes are made:

A major change for a graduate program may involve 9 or more required (non-elective) credits, or a change in focus (e.g., biological sciences to health professions, addition or deletion of a track/concentration), location, or format (e.g., day to evening). Any change to a program leading to New York State teacher certification or licensure is considered major.

The proposed changes involve 5 credits of a flexible change of research requirements and electives and the deletion of an outdated language requirement and thus are considered minor and not significant. The re-registration of a program is therefore not needed.

For each existing program for which a change is proposed, the following minimal information should be provided under the signature of the campus president or chief academic officer and addressed to the Provost of the University:

- 1) The name of the program (by registered title); the award, and the program code number from the SED Inventory of Registered Programs. If the program leads to teacher certification, indicate the current certificate area and level. If the program leads to New York State licensure, please state.

Master of Science in Chemistry, Program Code 1905

- 2) Description of the proposed change and rationale for the change. The most compelling rationale is grounded academically, often arising from the results of ongoing assessment, changes in quality standards, or comparative market information.

If the program leads to certification in classroom teaching, describe how the proposed change is consistent with the standards for certification in §52.21(b) of the Commissioner's Regulations. State how the proposed change is consistent with the University's policy initiative *New Vision in Teacher Education*, available at: <http://www.sysadm.suny.edu/provost/teachered.htm>, and with the standards of your chosen national accrediting body

The Department of Chemistry proposes that MS students who choose the thesis option may take 5 credits less of electives and instead take 5 credits more of research. Currently, the thesis option students take only one course less of classes as compared to the non-thesis option students. Almost always, our graduate students also have teaching responsibilities. Under the current system of requirements, that makes them take an average of 2 courses every semester for both years of school. Having to take these courses and teach 3 labs on average leaves them with very little time to do research. Thesis research takes a lot of time, thus the absolute majority of our students resort to a non-thesis option. We have observed this undesirable trend for several years now. We