The University Senate of Michigan Technological University
Proposal 3-22
(Voting Units: Academic)

Proposal to Change Degree Title from “Pharmaceutical Chemistry” to “Medicinal Chemistry”

April 8, 2021

Department of Chemistry
Contact: Sarah Green, e-mail: sgreen@mtu.edu

1. General description and characteristics: This proposal is to change the title of the “Pharmaceutical Chemistry” B.S. degree program to “Medicinal Chemistry.”

2. Proposed new title: “Medicinal Chemistry”

3. Rationale: Pharmaceutical chemistry and medicinal chemistry both describe the use of chemicals to benefit human health. Pharmaceutical chemistry is sometimes considered to include aspects of manufacturing and marketing new drugs. Students often confuse pharmaceutical chemistry with a pharmacy degree (PharmD), a graduate program that prepares students to be pharmacists. The name medicinal chemistry avoids this confusion and is more descriptive of a path leading to research or production of drugs.

Furthermore, the chemistry department is developing a pre-pharmacy concentration (under the chemistry BA). Removing the name pharmaceutical chemistry will clarify the distinction from the pre-pharmacy program.

Currently enrolled students may continue with “Pharmaceutical Chemistry” or change to “Medicinal Chemistry.” New students will be enrolled under “Medicinal Chemistry.”

4. Related programs:

Illinois Tech, BS in Medicinal Chemistry
SUNY Buffalo, BS in Medicinal Chemistry
Arizona State University (online), BS in Medicinal Chemistry
University of Nebraska, Omaha, BS in Chemistry with a Concentration in Medicinal Chemistry
University of Technology, Sydney, Bachelor of Medicinal Chemistry

5. Projection of number of students: No change
6. Curriculum design NA
7. New course description NA
8. Model schedule NA
9. Library and learning resources NA
10. Equipment NA
11. Program costs NA
12. Accreditation requirements. No additional accreditation requirements.

13. Planned implementation. Fall 2022

Approved by Dept. of Chemistry faculty:
Approved by CSA Dean:
Approved by Dean’s Council:
Approved by the University Senate:
Approved by Provost: