



August 3, 2007

Mr. Steve Stegink
Higher Education Coordinator
Office of Professional Preparation Services
Michigan Department of Education
608 W. Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Steve:

I am writing to provide University of Detroit Mercy's response to the review panel's recommendations regarding our Biology specialty program as dated December 18, 2006.

Reviewers indicated that our program did not meet the following standards:

- Standard 3.5.1 community relationships, ...
- Standard 3.5.2 population
- Standard 3.5.4 biogeochemical cycles
- Standard 3.5.5 human impact
- Standard 3.6.3 health habits

According to reviewers, the above standards were not met by either the major and minor programs because candidates could take elective course work that did not appear to be linked to standards.

This issue has been fully addressed by significantly revamping the required coursework for both the major and minor, and eliminating elective options. The Biology major previously required 34 credits. It now requires 44 credits, with few elective options, while the Biology minor, which previously required 22 credit hours, now requires 24 credits, with elective options eliminated.

- Standard 7.0 *understand and promote the maintenance of a safe science classroom as identified by the Council of State Science Supervisors...*

We have addressed reviewers' concerns by more explicitly showing in our EDU 475 (Science Methods) syllabus where and how the issue of Science classroom safety is addressed and how the CSSS is the core source of information. We have included a revised EDU 475 in our submission, along with an updated Summary of Course Requirements and Standards Matrix, both of which more clearly demonstrate the requirement for EDU 475 for minors, as well as majors.

Our response also addresses other reviewer concerns regarding apparent discrepancies in required credits as indicated in Form XX and the Program Summary. Those two documents now reflect the same information. Additionally, the total required credits indicated in Form XX only reflects the hours of required Biology coursework, not the supporting pre- and co-requisite coursework.

Our response for Biology, dated August 3, 2007, can be viewed at:
<http://www.udmercy.edu/accredreport/biology/index.htm>

We look forward to receiving comments from reviewers and the Michigan Department of Education regarding our Biology specialty program.

Sincerely,

Kathy T. Bush
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and Interim Chair, Education Department
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