

**From:** [Steele, Rachel](#)  
**To:** [Cole, Susan](#); [Vaessin, Harald](#); [Wharton, Robin](#)  
**Cc:** [Panero, Wendy](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#); [Cody, Emily](#)  
**Subject:** BS/MS in Molecular Genetics  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 3:15:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
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Good afternoon,

On Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a proposal to create a new combined BS/MS in Molecular Genetics.

I am happy to report that proposal was unanimously approved the program with **3 contingencies** (in bold below,) *1 recommendation* (in italics below,) and 2 comments:

- **Contingency: The Panel requests that the department add the desired term of implementation to the proposal.**
- **Contingency: The Panel asks that the department correct the language surrounding the lack of a direct entry at the MS level (Program Proposal, pg. 2 under “Molecular genetics BS/MS proposal: Program Rationale” and Program Proposal, pg. 3 under “Minor updates to Molecular Genetics MS program to facilitate BS/MS”), as a direct entry MS has recently been approved per the department’s request.**
- **Contingency: The Panel requests that the department clarify how the requirement to take at least one course in each of the four pillars of Molecular Genetics (Program Proposal pg. 5 under “General Requirements”) is related to the old requirements for the degree. Could it be that the requirement was already there but perhaps not articulated (because due to the smaller number of courses available students couldn’t help but take course work in the four pillars)? Otherwise, if this is an “addition” or “reorganization” of the requirements of the MS, the Panel asks that it be included in the list of changes to the program (Program Proposal, pg. 3-4 under “Minor updates to Molecular Genetics MS program to facilitate BS/MS”).**
- *Recommendation: The Panel asks the department to consider whether the addition of the “four pillars requirement” (see contingency 3 above) will result in more than 10 percent of the program being altered.*
- Comment: The Panel suggests that the department be more specific regarding information provided to students via the 4-year plan and the advising sheet, especially as the department crafts their forms and handouts for the new GE in AU22.
  - The Panel recommends labeling all General Education courses by category in the 4-year plan and differentiating them from the Molecular Genetics major electives so that it is clear to students that all requirements have been accounted for.
  - The Panel encourages indicating which major pre-requisites will also be used to meet General Education requirements and specifying which GE category they fulfill.
- Comment: The Panel engaged in an extensive discussion of the cost of the program and the value of the degree to the student. The Panel encourages the department to consider offering Teaching Assistantships and Research Assistantships to students in this program whenever possible to further the goals of access and affordability.

I will return combined degree proposal via curriculum.osu.edu to enable the department to address the points above.

Should you have any questions about the feedback above, do not hesitate to contact Wendy Panero (cc'd here), faculty Chair of the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel, or me.

My best,  
Rachel



**Rachel Steele, MA**

(Pronouns: she/her/hers / Honorific: Ms.)

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