




MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Elizabeth S. Cilton, Provost and Executive Vice President 

SUBJECT: Discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Viticulture and Enology degree on WSU Pullman

DATE: January 9, 2024

The attached proposal to discontinue the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Viticulture and Enology (V&E) degree on the WSU Pullman campus has been reviewed by the Provost's Office, and we support the proposal.

On January 1, 2023, the Viticulture and Enology Program transitioned from Program to Department status with all faculty located on the WSU Tri-Cities campus or at IAREC in Prosser. The Viticulture and Enology faculty have spent the past year performing an analysis of the program curriculum against comparable 4-year universities with grape and wine-focused programming (UC Davis, CSU Cal Poly, CSU Fresno, Cornell), evaluating the student experience through conversations with advising, currently enrolled students and new alumni as well as surveying industry regarding their experience with our students.

After analyzing feedback from industry, students, and alumni, as well as identifying WSU's strengths and weaknesses against comparable programs across the United States, three areas were identified in which adjustments to the approach or new initiatives were needed.

- Redefined the Department Learning Objects to align with the re-affirmed mission statement and the vision of the WSU Tri-Cities campus where the faculty and the Wine Science Center are based.
- Define the core values as a faculty as they relate to the undergraduate education WSU aims to provide for our students.
- Redesign the course offerings to reflect those core values and ensure course learning objectives map directly to the Department Learning Objectives.

From this effort, the V&E Department submitted transformative curriculum changes with more laboratories, a focus on scientifically founded, hands-on learning experiences, and a dedication to creating a sense of community for WSU students. To ensure equity in each student's learning experience and to ensure the ability to complete required in-person laboratories, the V&E Department requests a discontinuation of the BS V&E Degree on the WSU Pullman campus and a designation that the degree only be offered on the WSU Tri-Cities campus where the Department has the winery and vineyard facilities required to provide a proper education in V&E, along with the proximity to industry partners.

We judge the proposal ready for the Senate review process.