

Motion to suspend the Master of Medical Science Degree

SUMMARY: Motion by the Dean of the Graduate School to suspend the Master of Medical Science (MMSc) degree and to delete from the Faculty Rules and Regulations any references to the MMSc degree.

MOTION: That the Faculty amend the Faculty Rules and Regulations, effective immediately, for the purpose of suspending the Master of Medical Science (MMSc) degree, found in the Faculty Rules and Regulations as Part 2, Section 5, I, and all other references thereto.

Faculty Rules & Regulations

Part 2: Academic Programs

Section 5. The Graduate School

I. Master of Medical Science

This degree is for medical students who wish to obtain experience in biological and medical science research problems through the preparation of a research thesis.

A. Admission Requirements:

a. Students already enrolled in the first year of the Brown Medical School or in or beyond the fourth year of the Program in Liberal Medical Education may apply to the Graduate School for admission to one of the Graduate Programs of the Division of Biology and Medicine. Enrollment in other Graduate Programs in the University is possible if the student meets the admission requirements of that program.

b. Admission is limited to students who have a high record of academic performance, who have submitted a thesis research plan approved by a prospective thesis supervisor in one of the Graduate Programs, and who are recommended by the appropriate Graduate Program Admissions Committee and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies of the Division of Biology and Medicine.

B. Degree Requirements:

a. Successful completion of eight courses, six of which are from the pre-clinical basic science courses normally required of the first year of the Program in Medicine (currently Bio-Med 117, 128, 130, 158, 181, 184 and 189), at least one thesis-research course and one 200-level course in a field relevant to the area of the thesis research. Medical students who have completed the two pre-clinical years in the Brown-Dartmouth Medical Program may substitute that course work for the six pre-clinical basic science courses, subject to the approval of the Dean of Medicine or his appointee for substantial equivalence of the program taken at Dartmouth to that taken by students at Brown. The thesis must be directed or co-directed by a faculty member in a Graduate Program at Brown University, and the 200-level course must be taken at Brown.

b. Presentation of a thesis approved by two members of the faculty in addition to the thesis supervisor.

c. Students are expected to meet all of the appropriate requirements of the Graduate Program in which they enroll.

RATIONALE: The Master of Medical Science (MMSc) degree morphed through mechanisms not known to the current administration to include a research experience and, in the process, became a **supplemental** degree option for PLME or Medical Students. The MMSc degree option has been used infrequently (16 students in the period from 2002-2006), the program is not well known outside of Brown and is considerably less rigorous than a Master of Science degree, in that only one graduate course is required in addition to the research experience and the courses from year one and two of the medical curriculum. The existing academic construct provides little guidance regarding the body of work that qualifies for a suitable thesis for this degree and does not set criteria for faculty research mentors. In relation to the new integrated medical curriculum introduced in 2006, the MMSc requirement of an additional graduate level course poses major scheduling challenges for a medical student. Moreover, the introduction of the Scholarly Concentrations Program in the new curriculum provides for a new and rigorous mechanism to promote and reward scholarship within the medical education process. This Motion is presented to suspend the Master of Medical Science degree and delete references to it from the Faculty Rules & Regulations.