Washington State University
MAJOR CHANGE FORM - REQUIREMENTS
(Submit original signed form and TEN copies to the Registrar's Office, zip 1035.)
See https://www.ronet.wsu.edu/ROPubs/Apps/HomePage.ASP for this form.

*Submit an additional copy to the Faculty Senate Office, French Administration 338, zip 1038.

Department Name
School of Biological Sciences

1. CHECK PROPOSED CHANGES.
*☐ Change department/program name from _____________________________ to _____________________________
*☐ New degree or program in _____________________________
*☐ Change name of degree from M.S. Botany to M.S. Plant Biology _____________________________
*☐ Drop degree or program in _____________________________
*☐ Extend existing degree or program to _____________________________ campus
☐ New Major in _____________________________
☐ Change name of Major from _____________________________ to _____________________________
☐ Revise Major requirements in _____________________________
☐ Drop Major in _____________________________
☐ Revise certification requirements for the Major in _____________________________
☐ New Option in _____________________________
☐ Revise requirements for the Option in _____________________________
☐ Drop Option in _____________________________
☐ New Minor in _____________________________
☐ Revise Minor requirements in _____________________________
☐ Drop Minor in _____________________________
☐ New Undergraduate Certificate in _____________________________
☐ Revise Undergraduate Certificate requirements in _____________________________
☐ Drop Undergraduate Certificate in _____________________________
☐ Other _____________________________

Effective term/year Fall 2015

<table>
<thead>
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2. GIVE REASONS FOR EACH REQUEST MARKED ABOVE. (Attach additional paper if necessary; see reverse side.) Please see attached.

4. SIGN AND DATE APPROVALS.

Chair Signature/date _____________________________
Dean Signature/date _____________________________
General Education Com/date _____________________________

Catalog Subcom/date _____________________________
Academic Affairs Com/date _____________________________
Graduate Studies Com/date _____________________________
Senate/Date _____________________________
Degree Name Change Justification – MS Botany to MS Plant Biology

In the spring of 2012, the School of Biological Sciences faculty unanimously voted to change the name of the MS graduate degree in Botany to a MS in Plant Biology. The reasoning behind this change was to more accurately reflect the integrative nature of modern plant biology research and thereby increase the effectiveness of graduate recruitment. To many, the term “botany” implies a more traditional training in plant sciences and may not represent the diversity of disciplines included under the modern definition of plant biological research. Additionally, it was noted that Internet search engines for graduate programs (e.g., www.stateuniversity.com, www.gradschools.com, www.princetonreview.com) do not always find Botany programs when students search with key terms such as “molecular plant biology”, “plant physiology”, “plant biochemistry” or “plant metabolism”. In addition, a search of the 71 Universities comprising the list of American Association of Universities (AAUs) and WSU’s peer institutions showed that only 3 of these schools offered degrees in Botany. Of the remainder, the most commonly offered degrees were in Biology, EEB (ecology, evolution and behavior or an analog) and Plant Biology.

Furthermore, the plant scientists at Washington State University are among the most highly cited in the world, according to the ISI Highly Cited Researchers list, and WSU has one of the top plant graduate programs in the United States. It is noteworthy that the plant science faculty in SBS have contributed strongly to this notoriety, and would like to align their degree program with this recognition to enhance student recruitment into SBS’s MS program.

Finally, changing our MS degree name to Plant Biology will provide our graduates with additional flexibility in applying for jobs in the modern work force, which including areas such as plant biotechnology, genomics, biogeochemistry, molecular biology that have been outside the traditional definition of a degree in botany.

*Students currently enrolled in this program will be given the option to complete their program under the previous program name (i.e., Botany) or switch to the new program name (i.e., Plant Biology). Curriculum Requirements for the MS in Plant Biology will remain unchanged from the previous revisions that referred to a MS in Botany, which was approved by the faculty senate in 2011.*