

New ACS Guidelines for Bachelor's Degree Programs: Changes in Requirements and Procedures.

Monday, July 28, 2008
2:00 – 5:00 PM

Join the ACS Committee on Professional Training (CPT) members for an interactive symposium to learn about the new application, reporting procedures, and requirements changes as well as discuss opportunities for developing new and innovative curricula under the new ACS Guidelines. Talks will be 12-15 minutes long, followed by 15 minutes of a CPT Panel answering audience questions. The following topics will be presented:

Overview of the New ACS Guidelines for Bachelor's Degree Programs

William F. Polik

The ACS Committee on Professional Training has released new guidelines for approval of bachelor's degree chemistry programs. In this introductory presentation the goals of the new ACS Guidelines will be reviewed, and the changes regarding faculty, infrastructure, and curriculum requirements will be summarized. Opportunities for developing new and innovative curricula will be highlighted as well as the implementation schedule for the new guidelines will be presented.

Using Degree Tracks to Promote Curricular Innovation

Cynthia K. Larive

Promoting curricular innovation is a major goal of the new ACS Guidelines. Under the new guidelines, chemistry departments will have the opportunity to develop degree tracks or concentrations. These department-defined degree tracks replace ACS-defined degree options under the previous guidelines. Degree tracks could cover chemistry as a whole, focus on a chemistry subdiscipline, or address a chemistry-related multidisciplinary area. Examples of department-defined degree tracks will be discussed.

Approaches for Developing One-Semester Foundation Courses

Joel I. Shulman

The new ACS Guidelines require that ACS-certified graduates receive instruction equivalent to a one-semester foundation course in each of the five major areas of chemistry: analytical, biochemistry, organic, inorganic, and physical chemistry. One-semester foundation courses can be delivered in a variety of ways, ranging from the first semester of a two-semester course sequence, to a specifically developed one-semester course, to an integrated experience. The purpose of foundation coursework and examples of one-semester foundation courses will be discussed.

Using Program Self-Evaluation for Continual Improvement

Barbara A. Sawrey

Self-evaluation is a process by which programs determine how well they are meeting their stated goals. The new ACS Guidelines state that an ACS-approved chemistry

program should regularly evaluate its curriculum and pedagogy, development of student skills, faculty development opportunities, and infrastructure needs relative to its teaching and research mission. The process of program self-evaluation will be discussed, along with the expectations for ACS-approved programs.

New Application and Reporting Procedures

William F. Polik

The procedures for initial approval and for periodic review of chemistry programs have been changed in the new ACS Guidelines. New applications include a short pre-application, which is followed by an invitation to submit a full application. Reviews of approved programs (which typically occur every five years) will be limited to fewer rounds of correspondence to streamline the process and provide more focused comments. The new procedures will be presented in detail, and members of CPT will answer audience questions. At the end of the symposium, CPT members will remain available to answer any questions that individuals may have regarding their chemistry program and the new ACS Guidelines.