

Proposal to Discontinue B.S. in Applied Physics

1. Name of administrator, department or group originating the proposal:

Department of Physics and Astronomy

Contact person:

Eli I. Rosenberg, Chair

2. Name of program:

B.S. in Applied Physics

3. Name of department which administers the program:

Department of Physics and Astronomy

4. Rationale for discontinuation:

As a result of the request for a Regents Post-Audit Review and based on the feedback from the relevant College and University committees, we propose to discontinue this program. The program has never attracted the number of majors originally anticipated: 30 majors by this academic year. By the end of academic year 2003/2004 only one student had graduated in the program and two are anticipated to graduate in the spring of 2005. This current year only two students are enrolled in the program. However, it should be noted there are no resources specifically devoted to this program and no savings or reallocation will occur due to the program discontinuation.

5. Availability of similar programs at other Regents institutions:

The State University of Iowa instituted a similar program at about the same time Iowa State did. The SUI program underwent a Regents Post-Audit Review in 2004 and while the Department, College and University recommended maintaining the program, it did not receive Regents approval. While modestly more successful in attracting students, the SUI program failed to attract majors in sufficient numbers to warrant the program's continuation.

An undergraduate applied physics major is offered at the University of Northern Iowa. The character of this program is quite different from the program being discontinued because of the absence of an Engineering College at the University of Northern Iowa.

There is also an applied physics specialization sub track in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Iowa.

6. Enrollment data for current and previous four years:

	First Program Year (2000-2001)	Second Program Year (2001-2002)	Third Program Year (2003-2003)	Last Year (2003- 2004)	Current Year (2004-2005)
Undergraduate Majors		0	0	2	2

7. Information required by the Board of Regents:

- a. A survey of students enrolled in the program to determine the impact of discontinuation on their academic plans.

There are two students currently enrolled in the program and both are seniors who should complete their degrees by spring 2005. Thus no students will be affected by the discontinuation and no resources will be required to allow these students to finish their programs.

- b. A projection of faculty and staff needed to accommodate student needs during program phase-out:

No additional faculty or staff resources will be required to allow the two currently-enrolled students to finish their programs.

- c. A description of the amount of money, if any, that would become available for redirection:

Since as originally proposed no additional resources or reallocations were made at the time of establishing this program, there are no resources that become available for redirection with the elimination of the program.

- d. A description of the impact of the discontinuation on other programs or the overall mission of the institution:

Since the program is only four years old and has had minimal enrollment, there is no impact on other programs and the overall mission of Iowa State University.

- e. A description of the impact on minorities and on women:

There is no impact on minorities or women.

f. A description of the potential faculty and staff reductions or reassignments that would result from the discontinuation:

There are no reassignments or staff reductions that would occur due to the elimination of this program.

g. A description of how existing facilities and equipment freed by the discontinuation would be utilized.

Since the program used existing facilities in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and other departments, no facilities or equipment are freed up by elimination of this program.

In summary, we are eliminating a zero cost option for undergraduate students. The only savings are in the administrative burden of maintaining a separate degree and advising track.