

Regents Form F

Form F

Board of Regents

Institutional Process to Request Academic Program Reduced Admission, Program Suspension,
or Program Termination

October 3, 2010

Name of Institution: Iowa State University
Date Submitted: January 28, 2013
Name of Program: History of Technology and Science
CIP Code: 54.0104
College: Liberal Arts and Sciences

Level: M

Degree abbreviation: M.A., Ph.D
Action Requested: Program termination

Description of the Program:

Rationale for the requested action: The History Department submits this proposal for the discontinuation of the History of Technology and Science (HOTS) Program, which is both an M.A. and Ph.D. program. The History Department experienced significant budget cuts early in the recession, which affected the department's ability to maintain its graduate programs. The HOTS program is submitted for discontinuation because of the significantly reduced faculty in that program, due to retirements and departures. In 2013, the last faculty member in the History of Science retired, leaving only three faculty members in the History of Technology. Additionally, there are a number of competing programs in the History of Technology and Science nationwide, making it difficult to recruit the best students.

Accommodations for current students:

As of January 2013, the History Department had 3 students who wished to complete a degree in the HOTS program. In the course of the year, one student finished her degree. Two other students are in the final stages of writing dissertations, and should defend in calendar 2014. By the end of 2014, all of the students currently enrolled should have graduated, making this the appropriate time to discontinue the program. These numbers reflect the budgetary reality that we were unable to offer any aid to potential new HOTS students after the 2009-2010 academic year, and have allowed students to graduate without replacing them.

Effect on costs:

This action should have little to no effect on costs, since funds have already been shifted to students continuing in other departmental graduate programs. No funds will become available

for redirection, since funding for graduate programs has already been reduced, and faculty have been redirected to other teaching duties.

Availability of this type of program in the state:

There are currently no programs similar to HOTS at the other Regents' institutions. Students wanting to pursue graduate study the history of technology or science do have other choices within the Big 12 and Big 10. The University of Oklahoma has a well-established History of Science Department, and the University of Minnesota has a History of Technology program. The University of Wisconsin has a Department of the History of Science, specializing in the history of science, medicine and technology.

If the department is allowed to fold the History of Technology into its existing Agricultural History and Rural Studies Programs, to be renamed the Program in Rural, Agricultural, Technological and Environmental History (see separate proposal), then the Department would be able to retain the teaching of the History of Technology within the Regents' Universities.

Five year trend in enrollments:

2012-2013	3 students
2011-2012	5 students
2010-2011	10 students
2009-2010	13 students
2008-2009	13 students

Because the Department was unable to offer incoming students aid, and because this information was supplied to potential students, applications essentially ceased.

Five year trend of graduations:

2012-2013	1 Ph.D.
2011-2012	1 Ph.D.
2010-2012	2 Ph.D.
2009-2010	1 M.A.
2008-2009	2 M.A., 2 Ph.D.

Is this a temporary or permanent change:

Permanent

Impact on workforce needs in state:

Minimal to none, since most graduates of the M.A. and Ph.D. programs in HOTS pursued employment outside of the state of Iowa.

Impact on other programs? Will students likely go elsewhere?

This is likely to have a minimal impact on other programs. The discontinuance will have no impact on other programs at the institution, since none of the courses offered under HOTS are required by other degree programs.

Students interested in the History of Technology may join the RATE program, if approved. The number of students pursuing History of Science has always been smaller than the number of students interested in the History of Technology.

Impact on minorities and women?

None. The students are finishing their degrees as planned. One woman faculty member is involved, but this will not substantially affect her teaching duties, as she is a historian of technology, and included in the proposed RATE program.

Is a reduction in faculty, staff, facilities, etc., anticipated?

No staff are affected by this plan, as the History of Science faculty has already resigned or retired. Faculty in the HOTS program will continue or increase their current undergraduate teaching. History of Technology faculty will have the opportunity to continue graduate teaching and advising within a revised Agricultural History and Rural Studies Program (see attached RATE proposal).

There are no facilities or equipment designated specifically for the HOTS program.

Other information:

On August 25, 2012, the History Department voted unanimously (17-0-1: yes, no, absent) to replace the HOTS program with the RATE program (Program in Rural, Agricultural, Technological and Environmental History), which involves a renaming of the Agricultural History and Rural Studies Program, while integrating useful elements of the history of technology and environmental history. Please see the attached proposal.