

**Council on Postsecondary Education
February 11, 2010**

**Master's Degree in Chemical Manufacturing Management
Murray State University**

ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council approve the Master of Science in Chemical Manufacturing Management (CIP 41.0301) proposed by Murray State University.

Murray State University proposes a Master of Science in Chemical Manufacturing Management that combines training in the technical aspects of the physical sciences with business management strategies. This combination of technical and management education will enable graduates to make process improvements related to technical strategies, resource management, and employee performance. Graduates will have a better understanding of the business, economic, and human factors affecting production.

The program focuses on applications and practice rather than research and development, and MuSU will seek certification as a Professional Science Master's with the National Professional Science Master's Association. A professional science master's degree is an interdisciplinary degree that provides students with an alternative to a research-based Ph.D. program. It combines training in science, mathematics, or technology and typically includes an internship and training in business, management, and communications.

Students with undergraduate majors or minors in chemistry, chemical engineering, biology, or pre-professional health fields such as medicine and pharmacy will be likely candidates for the Chemical Manufacturing Management graduate program. In addition to providing graduate education opportunities for people currently working for the numerous regional chemical manufacturers, the program will provide additional graduate opportunities for MuSU chemistry undergraduates, University of Kentucky Paducah Chemical Engineering undergraduates, and international students seeking a graduate program that provides additional science and technical expertise as well as management education.

The program will include 30 credit hours of required and elective courses, including four existing required courses from the Department of Industrial and Engineering Technology, four existing required courses from the Department of Chemistry, and two existing elective courses. No new courses or modifications of existing courses will be needed.

This proposal was posted to the online Kentucky Postsecondary Program Proposal System for review by the Council staff and other postsecondary institutions. The MuSU Board of Regents approved the program at its December 4, 2009, meeting.

Staff preparation by Melissa Bell