Proposed Dissolution of an Existing Credit-Bearing (Major, Minor, Certificate, or Degree) Program: Academic Component

*eCAP is Boston University’s peer review process for the creation, modification, and dissolution of academic programs.*

**Title of Existing Program (e.g., Bachelor of Arts in History): Seven-Year Liberal Arts/Medical Education Program**

**Proposing/Supporting Department:** CAS Preprofessional Advising Office, Medical Science Major and BUSM.

**Proposed End Date:** We will teach out the current students in the program (including the most recently admitted class for the 2022/2023 AY. We will not recruit applicants for the 2023/2024 AY.

1. Please provide the name, title, email address, and phone number of the primary contact person for this academic program:

   **Michelle Sherman, Director of Pre-health Programs & Advising, 617-353-4866, Co-Director of Seven-Year Liberal Arts/Medical Education Program**

   **Dr. Kristen Goodell, Associate Dean of Admissions BUSM, Director of Seven-Year Liberal Arts/Medical Education Program**

2. Please provide the rationale for the proposed dissolution of the major or degree program:

   **Enrollment Goals**
   The program was initially created to help both the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Medicine attract highly qualified applicants to their schools by offering them a quicker and more direct path to medical school (without the lengthy and stressful medical school application process). In recent years, admission to both CAS and BUSM has become extremely
competitive, with very large numbers of highly qualified applicants. In essence, neither school “needs” this program to meet its recruitment and enrollment goals. In addition, both schools are focused on attracting a diverse incoming student body. This program, without meaning to, tends to attract applicants who are quite uniform in their family background, socioeconomic status, and educational experiences.

**Student Expectations and Preparation**

In the years since this program began the expectations of today’s undergraduates have changed and so has the typical preparation of applicants to medical school. Today’s undergraduate students favor greater flexibility and freedom than our program is designed to offer. Other, typical applicants to medical schools have generally had significantly more clinical and volunteer experience than have students in our program (most commonly they have a year or more of work experience after college before they matriculate to medical school). From the standpoint of the school of medicine, spending time during and after the undergraduate experience working in clinical settings, volunteering, conducting research, etc. benefits applicants in terms of their maturity upon entering, their certainty that medicine is right for them, and their readiness to embark on a highly rigorous course of study. We believe it is likely that would-be 7-year program students would benefit from those experiences as much as their peers who apply to medical school in the typical way.

The Steering Committee for Early Assurance Programs (e.g. SMED, MMEDIC, and EMSSP) has met to discuss and vote on the dissolution of the SMED program. The Steering Committee is made up of the following individuals, who voted unanimously to discontinue the program.

Kristen Goodell (Chair), Associate Dean for Admissions (MED) & Director of the SMED and MMEDIC Programs.
Michelle Sherman, Director of Pre-health Programs & Advising & Co-Director of the SMED and MMEDIC Programs.
Angela Jackson, Associate Dean for Student Affairs (MED)
Priya Garg, Associate Dean of Medical Education (MED)
Joseph Bizup, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Academic Programs (CAS)
Steven Jarvi, Associate Dean for Student Academic Life (CAS)
Solomon Eisenberg, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs (ENG)
Paula Quatromoni, Chair and Associate Professor of Health Sciences (SAR)
Cataldo Leone, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (SDM)
Ebonie Woolock, Director of Early Medical School Selection Program (MED)

3. Please provide the proposed timetable for the phase-out of the dissolved major or degree program:
All students currently enrolled in the program will complete the program normally. However, no new incoming classes will be recruited. This academic year, 2022/2023, will be the program’s last incoming class. We will not be recruiting for the 2023/2024 academic year.

4. Please describe the current student body (number of students by year) of the major or degree program and the trajectory of those student cohorts as the program is dissolved. As current students must be allowed to complete the program under the requirements in place when they entered the program, please indicate how that will be achieved and how you plan to communicate options to the current students:

All current students are officially Medical Science Majors (only available to students accepted to the SMED program):

SMED 1 (AY 22/23): 23 incoming students (expected graduation May 2026)

SMED 2 (AY 21/22): 14 students (expected graduation May 2025)

SMED 3 (AY 20/21): 25 students (expected graduation May 2024)

SMED 4 (AY 19/20): 18 students (this cohort will matriculate to our medical school this fall and are expected to graduate May 2023).

No changes will be made to their required curriculum and the plan is for students to complete the program as originally planned. As previously stated, we will simply not recruit another class.

5a. Please outline the analysis undertaken related to the impact on admissions. For an undergraduate program, has ENSA’s Office of Admissions been consulted? What is the anticipated impact on the school/college applicant pool? For a graduate program, how will the school/college maintain enrollment targets?

BUSM routinely receives more than 10,000 applications for a class of 150 students. Of the 150, about 20-30 are early assurance pathway students (not including the 7 year program) so essentially we have about 120-130 seats to fill. About two-thirds of our total applicant pool is not just qualified but competitive for admission. From these, we interview about 1000 candidates and select about 450. We do not anticipate any negative impact on enrollment whatsoever. We believe that eliminating this program will help us improve the diversity of our entering class, because the 7-year program students are on the whole less diverse than our entering class is. We believe that eliminating this program will allow us to maintain or improve our academic metrics (and thus our competitiveness according to typical ranking systems) because program students have academic metrics that are consistent with or slightly below our typical accepted applicant.
The undergraduate admissions office has been consulted and is in favor of program dissolution. They do not feel that this program confers a significant recruiting advantage. While it was unique at the time of its inception, it is now one of 81 BA-MD programs in the country, and our admissions office has declined to consider applicants to whom we do not offer admission because the yield on this group is too low to be worth the time spent on review.

5b. Please describe the budgetary impact that the proposed dissolution will have:

NA.