

January 10, 2024

Professor Michael G. Borland
Commonwealth University
Department of Biochemistry, Chemistry, Engineering, & Physics
237 Hartline Science Center
400 East Second Street
Bloomsburg PA 17815

Dear Professor Borland:

Thank you for your application for ASBMB program accreditation. We are pleased to inform you that the ASBMB has accredited your program for the **FULL seven-year term, through December 31, 2030**. Your renewal application will be due in October of 2030.

You are to be commended on the work that you and your colleagues have done in integrating your programs across multiple campuses. Our main message to you is to urge you to continue to make all aspects of the curriculum and experiences available to all students at all sites.

Aspects of your application that were considered particularly noteworthy included:

- Required research or internship for majors
- Active learning opportunities, especially in Chemistry
- Attempts to “close the loop” in program assessment
- Increased emphasis on research activity as a consideration in hiring new faculty

Despite the overall strength of your application, some areas of relative weakness, ambiguity or concern were identified:

- Low number of degrees granted. This may be an issue if it leads to cuts in required courses.
- Large gaps in graduation rates for certain demographics
- Safety training not equivalent or up to standards on all campuses
- Relatively large groups of student teams for hands-on lab activities

Looking ahead to your renewal application in 2030, please note that a weakness was identified in your program in an item considered "Critical" (see [rubric](#)), specifically, safety programs. This must be remedied, or partial progress toward or lack of remediation must be explained, before a new approval will be granted. It makes sense to address this deficiency in the near term, rather than waiting until you are preparing your new application.

We continue to identify ways in which the review process can be improved in both substance and execution. In particular, we would appreciate receiving more information on the following topics as part of your next renewal application:

- Information on how you are addressing differential graduation rates
- Further integration of all campuses, particularly around the research requirement

Additionally, please note that sections of the application may be modified slightly each year by the accreditation sub-committee. When it is time to apply for renewal, please be sure to use the latest version of the application to ensure all components are adequately addressed.

We encourage you to share this good news with your university community and stakeholders. If you are contemplating the release of an article, blog post or press release, please know that the ASBMB is very interested in helping to promote it. We ask that you send a copy to Allison Frick, multimedia and social media content manager, at africk@asbmb.org. If you post on social media, please tag @ASBMB on X or @theasbmb on Instagram, and we'll repost your message.

Again, we thank you for your application and congratulate your program on receiving accreditation. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



John T. Tansey for the ASBMB department/program accreditation steering group