Carleton University

Office of the Vice-Provost (Academic and Global Learning)

memorandum

DATE: March 18, 2026

TO: Senate

FROM: Dr. David J. Hornsby, Vice-Provost (Academic and Global Learning)

RE: Suspended program admissions – For information

Programs that have been approved to suspend admissions are being circulated to Senate for information. The requests have been made by the units, approved by the Deans and the Vice-Provost (Academic and Global Learning) and all necessary administrative steps have been taken by Admissions, the Registrar's Office and Graduate Studies.

Unless otherwise indicated, admissions to the programs will be suspended for two admission cycles. The Office of Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives will be responsible for following up with the units to ensure appropriate action (i.e program reinstatement or closure) is taken.

Any modifications relating to program reinstatement or closure will be brought to Senate for approval.

Suspended admissions for Fall 2027 (Supporting documentation has been provided for information)

BScH Nanoscience

Enrolment in the Nanoscience program has been low for the past several years. Total enrolment in the program has fluctuated between 5-10 students within the past seven years. Table 1 below shows the total number of students in the nanoscience program in recent years.

Table 1: Nanoscience Enrolment

Program	Stream	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
HBS-623	Nanoscience	7	7	8	10	7	5	6

As shown in Table 2, on average, the program attracts two students a year.

Table 2: Admission Stats

Program	Degree	Major	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
HBS-623	BSCH	Nanoscience	2	0	1	3	2	2	2

The nanoscience program requires four specialized chemistry courses:

- CHEM 3107: Experimental Methods in Nanoscience
- CHEM 3600: Introduction to Nanotechnology
- And 1.0 credits from:
    - Chem 4103: Surface Chemistry and Nanostructures
    - CHEM 4104: Physical Methods of Nanotechnology
    - CHEM 4201: Macromolecular Nanotechnology

Offering specialized courses for a handful of students each year is not feasible for departmental resources.

– The timeline

We would like to close to program for admission for the 2027/2028 calendar year.

- Any implications on other Quality Assurance processes, for example Cyclical Program Review timelines

The nanoscience program submitted a Cyclical Review in Fall 2025, along with the Chemistry program. The review highlighted the low enrolment of the nanoscience program and the resources required for a minimal number of students. Offering specialized courses for roughly 2 students a year who need them is a considerable burden on resources and teaching assignments.

At the December 2025 departmental meeting, the department of Chemistry voted to put the nanoscience program into abeyance.

- Any impacts of the suspension on other programs, joint programs with a partner institution, or partnership with a third-party (co-op program, internship, work[1]integrated learning, industry partnership etc...)

The Nanoscience program requires students to take ELEC courses. It is a challenge each year to get the nanoscience students into their required ELEC courses, since the electronics department will not allow the nanoscience students to register during their time tickets. Registration is initially restricted to students in Engineering, which can make it challenging for nanoscience students to get into the courses that they need.

The department of Chemistry expressed their desire to put the nanoscience program into abeyance to the Electronics department, and they had no complaints.

- **Considerations for donor funded programs - Any necessary transition plans for current applicants or students**

Current students in the nanoscience program, and those admitted in the 2026/2027 academic year will be permitted to continue with their degree as usual.

In an effort to reduce low enrolment classes, CHEM 3600 and CHEM 3107 will be offered on a rotating biannual basis. Additionally, one of CHEM 4103, CHEM 4104 and CHEM 4201 will be available for students to take in their third or fourth year. As a replacement for the other 4000-level course, students will be permitted to take any 4000-level CHEM courses via audit amendment.