

**WILLIAM AND MARY  
RENAME THE DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY**

**WHEREAS**, in 1919, the university began offering a degree in Physical Education;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Physical Education for Men and Physical Education for Women merged in the 1980s;

**WHEREAS**, in 1992, the department reorganized as the Department of Kinesiology;

**WHEREAS**, the curriculum and research within the department have evolved significantly over the intervening decades;

**WHEREAS**, in March 2022, an external program review recommended that the Department reorganize to become the Department of Health Sciences;

**WHEREAS**, in October 2024 and January 2025, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) approved the creation of new bachelor's degrees in Human Health and Physiology and in Public Health, respectively, as well as the closure of the university's bachelor's degrees in Kinesiology;

**WHEREAS**, in January 2025, the Faculty of the Department unanimously approved the recommendation of the external program review committee to change the name of the Department;

**WHEREAS**, no faculty positions will be lost as a result of the Department's renaming;

**WHEREAS**, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences concurs with the recommendations of the external program review and of the Faculty of the Department;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon recommendation of the President and the Provost, the Board of Visitors approves the renaming of the Department of Kinesiology as the Department of Health Sciences.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that William & Mary will complete this action in compliance with all requirements of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

**BOARD OF VISITORS ACTION FORM**  
**FOR PROPOSED INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES REQUIRING BOV AND SCHEV APPROVAL**

**PROPOSAL TITLE:**

Rename the Department of Kinesiology

**PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL:** Rename the Department of Kinesiology as the Department of Health Sciences.

**APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE:**

Academic Affairs

**BRIEF NARRATIVE:**

The name Kinesiology no longer reflects the degree programs offered by the faculty in the department nor the research conducted by the faculty. W&M's Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) in Kinesiology has been replaced by two degree programs: a BA/BS in Public Health and a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Human Health & Physiology.

Faculty approved the name change in January 2025, and the Dean subsequently approved the renaming. Action by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) is required for organizational changes at or above the department level, including renaming a department. Prior to submission of the change to SCHEV, Board approval is required.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

This organizational change is resource neutral.