



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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AGENDA ITEM: 3

ITEM IDENTIFICATION

University of Toronto Scarborough: Proposed changes to degree requirements for the Honours Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Honours Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) and Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) degrees and requirements for Specialist and Major programs.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has authority to approve changes to curriculum within established degree programs that can be accomplished with existing resources and are not major and changes to regulations and other matters affecting divisional calendars.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto Scarborough established its Degree Level Expectations (DLE) in 2007-08 along with all University of Toronto academic divisions.¹ Following upon this process, University of Toronto Scarborough examined the alignment of the degrees and programs requirements in light of its established DLE.²

As described in the attached document, University of Toronto Scarborough is proposing amendments to its Honours B.A. and B.Sc and B.B.A. degree requirements as well as changes to the specialist and major program requirements. These amendments will ensure that the University of Toronto Scarborough degrees and programs meet the standards of depth and breadth set out in the DLE.

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¹ Degree level expectations (DLE) define the expectations appropriate for a given degree in terms of subject-specific and generic knowledge and skills students of the degree programs are expected to achieve upon graduation. From a pedagogical standpoint, degree level expectations enable the assessment of whether program objectives and learning outcomes are appropriate. DLE articulate general competencies expected of anyone graduating with a degree at the same level. Information on DLE is available on the Provost's web site at <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/policy/academic/DLE.html>

² UTSC Degree Level Expectations: http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~vpdean/documents/DLE_000.pdf

The changes to the University of Toronto Scarborough degree requirements include delineation of specific course levels as part of the total degrees as well as formalization of breadth requirements. Such elements currently exist in the comparable Faculty of Arts and Science and the University of Toronto Mississauga degrees.

In terms of program requirement changes, the proposed amendments align the University of Toronto Scarborough degree requirements with those of the Faculty of Arts and Science (BA, BSc) and the University of Toronto Mississauga (BA, BSc, BBA). Faculty of Arts and Science specialist programs require between nine and seventeen and one-half credits and include at least four 300+series credits, one of which must be a 400-series credit. At UTM they consist of nine to sixteen credits including at least four 300/400 level credits, one of which must be at the 400 level. Faculty of Arts and Science major programs consist of between six and eight credits and must include at least two 300+series credits; UTM major programs consist of six to eight and one-half credits, including at least two 300/400 level credits.

Breadth requirements allow students to be exposed to areas of knowledge outside their main area of study. Elaborations of the breadth categories will be approved in UTSC governance in the Fall and will be included in the course calendar. *Arts and literature and language* is intended to include courses on creative representations and cultural expression through a range of media and language courses. *History, philosophy and cultural studies* will include courses on the history of societies, human thought and belief systems, and cultural analysis. *Social and behavioural sciences* will include courses that study social, economic and political systems and the behaviour of individuals and groups in those systems. *Natural sciences* will encompass the study of the physical world, in the large and in the small, and the living world and the mechanisms of life. *Quantitative reasoning* will include courses that deal with mathematical techniques and reasoning, statistical analysis, and the construction and analysis of algorithms.

The UTSC proposal includes a description of the consultations conducted for the degree requirement changes. The proposal has been discussed by the tri-campus decanal curriculum committee. The degree and program changes were approved by the University of Toronto Scarborough Academic Committee on April 14, 2009 and at the Faculty Council on April 28, 2009.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The University of Toronto Scarborough proposes that the new degree and program requirements take effect in the Summer of 2010, applying to students whose first registration at the University of Toronto Scarborough is in the 2010 Summer Session or in a subsequent session. These changes will not apply to students registered in degree programs prior to the Summer of 2010.

The University of Toronto Scarborough does not expect these changes to have any resource implications although some departments will have to adapt some of their programs to meet the new requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approve:

The proposed changes to degree program requirements for the Honours Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Honours Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) and Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) degrees and for Specialist and Major programs as described in the submission from the University of Toronto Scarborough, effective as of the Summer 2010.