



FOR RECOMMENDATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Sioban Nelson, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
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PRESENTER: Elizabeth Smyth, Chair, Committee on Academic Policy and Programs
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DATE: April 28, 2017 for May 29, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: 9

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Revision to Second Degree Policy for Arts & Science Graduates

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The establishment, termination or major amendment of University-wide policies governing academic regulations are considered by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs and forwarded to the Academic Board for approval (*Committee on Academic Policy and Programs Terms of Reference*, Section 4.3).

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Academic Policy and Programs [for recommendation] (May 9, 2017)
2. Academic Board [for approval] (May 29, 2017)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The proposal to revise the Second Degree Policy for Faculty of Arts and Science Graduates received approval from the Faculty of Arts and Science on April 19, 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This is a proposal to allow graduates with a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toronto to pursue a second degree of the same post-nominal in the Faculty of Arts and Science. Currently students who already hold one of these degrees from the Faculty of Arts & Science, the University of Toronto Scarborough or the University of Toronto Mississauga may not complete a second degree that is the same (i.e., a second H.B.A.) in a different program.

The University of Toronto Mississauga and University of Toronto Scarborough have a similar restriction.

The Faculty of Arts and Science does allow graduates of other universities to obtain the same second degree, so this change would align admission practices. Graduates from the Faculty of Arts and Science are not permitted to complete the same program of study already completed, and that policy will remain unchanged.

This proposal came out of a review of the Faculty's policies and practices regarding petition. The proposal was shared, along with all the recommendations arising from the review, broadly across the Faculty, including with College Registrars, College Principals, Associate Chairs Undergraduate and the Committees on Standing and of Teaching and Learning; there is support for the revision.

Consultation has occurred with the Office of the University Registrar, the University of Toronto, Scarborough and the University of Toronto, Mississauga, the Office of Convocation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no additional costs associated with the implementation of this change in policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it Resolved

THAT the proposed amended "Second Degree" Requirements policy outlined in the Faculty of Arts and Science Calendar, as described in the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Science dated April 17, 2017, be approved, effective July 1, 2017.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Revision to Second Degree Policy for Arts and Science Graduates

Revision to Second Degree Policy for Arts & Science Graduates

April 17, 2017

Preamble

For a very long time, to start a second undergraduate degree from the Faculty after having already obtained (or when about to obtain) an undergraduate degree from the Faculty, a student had to petition. One of the recommendations that arose from a process streamlining of the petitions unit of the Office of the Faculty Registrar was to make this second-degree request an actual admissions process rather than a petition. This change is currently underway.

In making a second-degree request a proper admissions process, another policy was brought into focus: that a student who wishes a second undergraduate degree from their Faculty may *not* obtain a second degree with the same moniker: if a student obtained an (H)BA, they could only request a second degree that would result in an (H)BSc, and vice versa. (No second-degree student, whether from the Faculty or from another institution, may obtain a BCom degree.)

The Case for Change

It could be argued that this policy would make more sense, especially at a time when the degree requirements for a BA or a BSc from the Faculty did not even require completing specific programs of study, and could instead involve a majority of courses from broad categories. But at this point:

- This policy does not recognize that highly distinct degree programs can be obtained under the rubric of an Arts or a Science bachelor degree. A student who graduated with a degree in the life sciences being unable to pursue a second degree, for example, in computer science, makes no sense.
- The policy disadvantages our own students. Any student from another university with an undergraduate degree may apply to be admitted to pursue either an HBA or an HBSc, regardless of their first degree. They may not pursue the same program(s) of study. (“It is not possible to complete a second undergraduate degree in the same field as the first degree”, from the 2016-17 Arts & Science Calendar.)

Proposal

1. Students with any completed undergraduate degree from the Faculty of Arts & Science may apply for and obtain an Honours Bachelor of Science or an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the Faculty as a second degree.
2. The current restriction, that no such student may apply for or obtain a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) as a second degree, remains, as it does for second degree applicants from other universities.
3. Students will be evaluated for credits towards their second degree according to the current practice, and credits taken as a non-degree student since graduation will be retained as credits towards the second degree.
4. In the second degree, students will be restricted from repeating program(s) of study in the same discipline(s) as completed in their first degree.
5. These changes would come into effect for the 2017-18 Fall/Winter Session.

Proposed Change to Calendar Text

Current

Students who have graduated with a degree from the Faculty of Arts & Science must petition through their college by June 30 to begin a second degree. Before applying, students are urged to determine whether a second degree is actually required for their purposes; for example, a “make-up” year as a non-degree student may satisfy admission requirements for graduate school. Students are governed by the rules of the Faculty in place at the time they commence their second degree. Students who already hold a degree from the Faculty of Arts & Science, the University of Toronto Scarborough or the university of Toronto Mississauga may complete a second degree only of an alternate type (i.e. if a student has an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree then he/she may not complete a second Honours Bachelor of Arts degree). The Faculty normally exempts students from the first year of the degree requirements (five (5.0) transferred/retained credits: four 100-level and one 200-level), regardless of the number of previous degrees held. Second degree candidates may not repeat courses taken in a previous degree; they may, however, count such courses towards satisfying prerequisite and program requirements, on approval of the department/programs office concerned. A new admission POST and a new grade point average will commence with the second degree courses.

Revised

Students who have graduated with a degree from the Faculty of Arts & Science may apply through their college by June 30 to begin a second degree. Before applying, students are urged to determine whether a second degree is actually required for their purposes; for example, a “make-up” year as a non-degree student may satisfy admission requirements for graduate school. Students are governed by the rules of the Faculty in place at the time they commence their second degree.

Students who successfully apply for a second degree may pursue either an Honours Bachelor of Arts or an Honours Bachelor of Science degree; a Bachelor of Commerce degree may not be pursued as a second degree. The second degree, however, may not be in the same field(s) as the first degree.

The Faculty normally exempts students from the first year of the degree requirements (five (5.0) transferred/retained credits: four 100-level and one 200-level), regardless of the number of previous degrees held. Second degree candidates may not repeat courses taken in a previous degree; they may, however, count such courses towards satisfying prerequisite and program requirements, on approval of the department/programs office concerned. Candidacy in a new degree program of study will be established and a new grade point average will commence with the second degree courses.