



FOR RECOMMENDATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTSC Academic Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: William Gough, Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean
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DATE: March 22, 2018 for March 29, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 8

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Undergraduate Program Closure: Specialist (Joint) Program in Environmental Science and Technology

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

University of Toronto Scarborough Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) “is concerned with matters affecting the teaching, learning and research functions of the Campus” (*AAC Terms of Reference, Section 4*). Under section 5.6 of its terms of reference, the Committee is responsible for approval of “Major and minor modifications to existing degree programs.” The AAC has responsibility for the approval of Major and Minor modifications to existing programs as defined by the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (*UTQAP, Section 3.1*).

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **UTSC Academic Affairs Committee [For recommendation] (March 29, 2018)**
2. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [For approval] (April 3, 2018)
3. Academic Board [For approval] (April 19, 2018)
4. Executive Committee [For confirmation] (May 8, 2018)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action in governance has been taken on this item.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto Scarborough is proposing to close the Specialist (Joint) program in Environmental Science and Technology (BSc), which is housed in the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences. This program is offered jointly with Centennial College.

The program was suspended to new enrolments effective the 2013-14 academic year, and all students have now graduated.

The Specialist (Joint) Program in Environmental Science and Technology was first introduced in 2003-04 as part of a group of five programs developed and offered jointly with Centennial College. The other Joint programs are the Specialist (Joint) Program in Journalism, the Major (Joint) Program in New Media Studies, and the Specialist (Joint) Program in Paramedicine. A fifth program – the Specialist (Joint) Program in Applied Microbiology – is also closing.

A motion to suspend the Specialist (Joint) Program in Environmental Science and Technology to new enrolments was approved by UTSC Academic Committee on February 12, 2013. There was insufficient student interest in this Joint program, despite a significant effort on the part of faculty and staff at both UTSC and Centennial College to make it more attractive to students. The decision to suspend the program to new enrolments was made in consultation with Centennial College.

Since 2013-14, the UTSC Dean's Office has met several times with the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences to discuss the future of the program. The Department has been encouraged to work with Centennial College to consider various options, including modifying the program and re-opening it to enrolments, or closing it fully. The Department has elected to fully close the program, and as an alternative it will be pursuing a facilitated transfer pathway that will allow students who complete the Centennial College Advanced Diploma in Environmental Technology to come to UTSC and complete a BSc in the Environmental Sciences.

The proposed program closure has no negative impact on existing UTSC students since there are no students enrolled in the program. The closure will also have no negative impact on new students since the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences offers a wide variety of programs to meet student interests and academic aspirations. There is no impact on other UTSC academic units. The closure of the Specialist (Joint) Program in Environmental Science and Technology also will have no impact on faculty or staff in the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences.

There has been extensive consultation within the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, and with Centennial College.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no net financial implications to the campus operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Recommended,

THAT the proposal to close the Specialist (Joint) program in Environmental Science and Technology (BSc), submitted by the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, as described in the Program Closure proposal dated February 14, 2018, and recommended by the Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean, Professor William Gough, be approved for the academic year 2018-19.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

1. Program Closure: Specialist (Joint) program in Environmental Science and Technology (BSc), dated February 14, 2018.



University of Toronto Proposal for the Closure of an Existing Program (Graduate or Undergraduate)

Closure Proposed: Please specify precisely what is being closed:	Specialist (Joint) Program in Environmental Science and Technology (BSc)
Department / Unit (if applicable):	Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences
Faculty / Academic Division:	University of Toronto Scarborough
Faculty / Academic Division contact:	Annette Knott, Academic Programs Officer; aknott@utsc.utoronto.ca
Effective date programs will be closed to new admissions:	Enrolment was suspended effective 2013-14
Effective date of full closure of programs: (date by which students currently in the program will be expected to graduate)	2018-19 Academic Year
Version Date:	February 14, 2018

1 Brief Summary

The University of Toronto Scarborough is proposing to close the Specialist (Joint) Program in Environmental Science and Technology, which is housed in the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences. This program is offered jointly with Centennial College.

The program was suspended to new enrolments effective the 2013-14 academic year, and all students have now graduated.

2 Rationale

The Specialist (Joint) Program in Environmental Science and Technology was first introduced in 2003-04 as part of a group of five programs developed and offered jointly with Centennial College. The other Joint programs are the Specialist (Joint) Program in Journalism, the Major (Joint) Program in New Media Studies, and the Specialist (Joint) Program in Paramedicine. A fifth program – the Specialist (Joint) Program in Applied Microbiology [formerly the Specialist (Joint) in Industrial Microbiology] – is also closing, and a separate proposal has been prepared and submitted.

All five Joint programs are currently governed by (1) the *Memorandum of Understanding*, (2) the *Agreement on Teaching by Faculty of Either Institution at the Campus of the Other*, and (3) the *Revenue Sharing Methodology* – all signed July 23, 2009.

In addition, there are individual agreements associated with each program. The Agreements for the Specialist (Joint) Program in Journalism, Major (Joint) Program in New Media Studies, and Specialist (Joint) Program in Paramedicine were revised and renewed effective October 30, 2013. However the Agreements for the Specialist (Joint) Program in Industrial Microbiology and Specialist (Joint) Program in Environmental Science and Technology, originally signed on June 16, 2003, were not renewed at that time.

A motion to suspend the Specialist (Joint) Program in Environmental Science and Technology to new enrolments was approved by UTSC Academic Committee on February 12, 2013.

There was insufficient student interest in this Joint program to make it sustainable, despite a significant effort on the part of faculty and staff at both UTSC and Centennial College to make it more attractive to students. Enrolment in the program in 2009-10 was 8 students at all levels of study, in 2010-11 it had dropped to 1 student at all levels of study, and in 2011-12 only 4 students were enrolled at all levels of study. The slight increase in 2011-12 was insufficient to make the program viable. The decision to suspend the program to new enrolments was made in consultation with Centennial College.

Since 2013-14, the UTSC Dean's Office has met several times with the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences to discuss the future of the program. The Department has been encouraged to work with Centennial College to consider various options, including modifying the program and re-opening it to enrolments, or closing it fully. The Department has elected to fully close the Joint program. As an alternative to the Joint program, the Department will be pursuing a facilitated transfer pathway that will allow students who complete the Centennial College Advanced Diploma in Environmental Technology to come to UTSC and complete a BSc in the Environmental Sciences. A proposal to introduce this pathway is in development, with the intention of bringing it forward for approval in the 2019-20

academic year.

3 Impact on other programs/units of the proposed closure

The proposed program closure has no negative impact on existing UTSC students since there are no students enrolled in the program. The closure will also have no negative impact on new students since the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences offers a wide variety programs to meet student interests and academic aspirations. Moreover, the Department is investigating the creation of a facilitated transfer pathway that will allow students who have completed the Advanced Diploma in Environmental Technology at Centennial College to also complete a BSc at UTSC.

There is no impact on other UTSC academic units.

Under the existing agreements related to the Joint programs, closure of programs may occur, and UTSC is following the provisions of the existing agreements that are in effect. Parties to the existing agreements governing the Joint programs are aware and supportive of the closure of the Specialist (Joint) program in Applied Microbiology. The impact of the closure will be reflected in the amended agreement, which is currently being negotiated.

Consultation

There has been extensive consultation as follows:

Within the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences: the Department's Curriculum Committee approved this proposal on January 18, 2018.

With Centennial College: the proposal has been reviewed by Dr. Rahim Karim, AVP, Partnerships Pathways and Internationalization, and is in agreement with the decision to close the program. Centennial is fully supportive of the plan to establish a facilitated transfer pathway that will allow students who complete the Centennial College Advanced Diploma in Environmental Technology to come to UTSC and complete a BSc in the Environmental Sciences.

4 Student Accommodation

All students who enrolled in the Specialist (Joint) Program in Environmental Science and Technology have graduated.

5 Faculty / Staff Accommodation

The closure of the Specialist (Joint) Program in Environmental Science and Technology will have no impact on faculty or staff in the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences. The department has a wealth of other programs and courses that their faculty and staff support.

6 Governance Process

Levels of Approval Required	Date
Departmental Curriculum Committee	Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences: January 18, 2018
Forwarded to PO for Sign-off	February 2, 2018 Sign off: February 14, 2018
Reviewed by Campus Curriculum Committee	March 2, 2018
Decanal Sign-Off	March 2, 2018
Approved by UTSC Academic Affairs	
Submitted to Provost's Office	
Committee on Academic Policy and Programs	April 3, 2018
Academic Board	N/A
Executive Committee of Governing Council	N/A
Inclusion in Annual report to Quality Council	Summer 2018
Inclusion in Annual report to MAESD (in case of closure of degree)	Summer 2018