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OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Carolyn Tuohy
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DATE: May 7, 2003 for meeting of May 14, 2003

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: Guidelines for Five-Year Ph.D. Programs (“Direct Entry Programs”)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has authority for approval of major program and curriculum changes, and changes in admission policy and requirements.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Until the current academic year, the Committee approved changes allowing direct entry to Ph.D. programs on a program-by-program basis. A significant number of graduate departments are choosing to institute such an option, and the agenda planning group determined that these changes had become sufficiently routine that they could be approved at the level of the School of Graduate Studies and be forwarded to the Committee for information, on the understanding that the School of Graduate Studies would develop guidelines to govern these program changes. These guidelines are now being submitted to the Committee for approval. Changes to individual programs consistent with these guidelines once approved will continue to be submitted to the Committee for information.

HIGHLIGHTS:

These guidelines allow highly qualified students to be admitted directly to the Ph.D. program without being first admitted to a master’s program. Overall expected timelines for completion of the doctorate are the same as those for students who first complete a master’s (i.e. five years in the Ph.D. program for direct-entry students; one year in the master’s plus four years in the Ph.D. for students who take the master’s route). Direct-entry programs incorporate a substantial portion of the work normally expected at the master’s level, and allow for more integrated planning for progress through the doctoral-stream program.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

THAT the Guidelines for Five-Year Ph.D. Programs (“Direct Entry Programs”), as proposed in the submission from the School of Graduate Studies, dated March 25, 2003, be approved, effective immediately.

March 31, 2003

Professor Carolyn Tuohy
Vice-President, Policy Development
and Associate Provost
Room 206, Simcoe Hall
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Tuohy:

At its meeting of March 25, 2003, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

THAT SGS Council approve the proposed Guidelines for Five-Year Ph.D. Programs ("Direct Entry Programs"), effective immediately.

The motion sheet and supporting documentation are attached.

On behalf of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, I am presenting this item to Governing Council committees, as appropriate, for approval.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Alderdice
Secretary to SGS Council
and Coordinator of Policy, Program and Liaison

Encl.
/smr

c.c. U. de Boni J. Cherry D. Cormack R. Desai S. Girard
 C. Johnston B. Katz M. Marrus L. Yee

Motion

School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Item 9.

Changes to SGS Admission Regulations

9.2: Guidelines for Five-Year Ph.D. Programs (“Direct Entry Programs”)

MOTION (/) **THAT** SGS Council approve the proposed Guidelines for Five-Year Ph.D. Programs (“Direct Entry Programs”), effective immediately.

See the proposed guidelines attached.

NOTE:

With SGS Council approval this item will go to Governing Council committees for approval.



Guidelines for Five-Year Ph.D. Programs ("Direct Entry Programs")

Introduction

The School of Graduate Studies allows admission directly to a Ph.D. program on the basis of an appropriate four-year University of Toronto bachelor's degree, or its equivalent from a recognized university, when permitted by the graduate unit. Applicants are expected to be of exceptional promise and demonstrate superior academic performance.

1. Admission Requirements

Where a graduate unit allows direct entry from a bachelor's degree to a Ph.D. program, the academic requirements for admission will be as follows:

- a. an appropriate four-year U of T bachelor's degree, or its equivalent from a recognized university, with at least an A-minus average in courses in the relevant discipline;
- b. demonstration that the applicant is capable of independent research at an advanced level in the subject matter of the relevant program;
- c. at least two strong supporting letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's research potential; and
- d. other qualifications as may be specified by the graduate unit.

To be admitted as a candidate for the degree, the applicant must be accepted by the Admission Committee of the relevant graduate unit. A candidate accepted on the basis of a bachelor's degree will be admitted to a five-year Ph.D. program with a seven-year time limit for completion of all requirements for the degree.

Note: In certain circumstances, an applicant with a master's degree might be admitted to a five-year program, as well: If the applicant has a master's degree in a different field of study, or if the applicant has a master's degree in the same field of study but is judged to require significant additional preparation, he or she would normally be admitted to a five-year program.

2. Program Requirements

When a graduate unit allows direct entry from a bachelor's degree to a Ph.D. program, the graduate unit will specify the program requirements for such students. The program requirements for a Ph.D. candidate who enters the Ph.D. program on the basis of a bachelor's degree should include a substantial portion of the requirements for a master's degree in the relevant discipline, together with the program requirements for a Ph.D. candidate who enters the Ph.D. program on the basis of a master's degree. A graduate unit may require certain direct entry students to complete additional requirements beyond the normal ones when the graduate unit assesses their backgrounds as deficient in some area.

Graduate units will closely monitor the progress of direct entry students during the first year of the Ph.D. program. They should, in particular, specify a minimum number of courses to be completed during the first year of the program, together with a minimum acceptable grade point average for those courses, in order for those students to maintain good academic standing and to be eligible to continue in the Ph.D. program.

Note: Transfers from the Five-Year Ph.D. Program to the Master's Program

Students registered in the five-year Ph.D. program are eligible to transfer to the master's program under certain circumstances. See section 2 of "Transfers" ("Ph.D. to Master's"), under the Degree Regulations for the Doctor of Philosophy, in the SGS Calendar.

March 10, 2003