



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Vivek Goel

CONTACT INFO: provost@utoronto.ca

DATE: March 24, 2004 for the meeting on May 12, 2004

AGENDA ITEM: 8

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for the Department of Botany to change the admission requirements to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree programs.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has authority to approve minor changes to admission policies and practices of individual programs.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The following changes to admission requirements are proposed:

1) Require mid-B average in the year previous to the final year, as well as a B+ average in the final year, for admission to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs; 2) Students with strong supporting supplementary evidence may be admitted to the program with a mid-B average in the final year; 3) Candidates for the Ph.D. degree may be accepted to the program by two routes, either by transferring from the M.Sc. program or following completion of an M.Sc. degree. The proposed wording change should indicate that the acceptance is not automatic; and 4) Inclusion of the requirement of an A-average in the final year for applicants wishing to enter a Ph.D. program directly from a B.Sc., in accordance with SGS requirements.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the program change. The changes to the programs are planned to be included into the SGS Calendar for 2004-2005.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

THAT the proposal for the Department of Botany to change the admission requirements to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree programs, as specified in the attached letter from the School of Graduate Studies dated March 15, 2004.



School of Graduate Studies

University of Toronto

April 15, 2004

Professor Vivek Goel
Interim Vice-President and Provost
Room 225, Simcoe Hall
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Goel:

With respect to my original letter of March 15, 2004, I am writing to confirm that SGS Council approved the following motion at its meeting of March 23, 2004:

THAT SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Botany to change the admission requirements to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree programs, as specified in the attachment, effective September 2005.

The motion and supporting documentation were attached with the letter of March 15, 2004.

Mr. Andrew Drummond, Secretary to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs, has informed my office that the item will appear on the agenda of the May 12 meeting of AP&P, for approval.

Yours sincerely,

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

/smr

c.c.	T. Chan	U. De Boni
	A. Drummond	C. Johnston
	R. Sage	L. Yee
	S. Zaky	

H:Council/FollowUp/2003-2004/March23/Botany Admission Requirement



School of Graduate Studies

University of Toronto

March 15, 2004

Professor Vivek Goel
Interim Vice-President and Provost
Room 225, Simcoe Hall
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Goel:

The following motion is on the agenda of the upcoming March 23, 2004 SGS Council meeting:

THAT SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Botany to change the admission requirements to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree programs, as specified in the attachment, effective September 2005.

The motion and supporting documentation are attached. Division IV Executive Committee approved the proposal at its meeting of March 2, 2004.

We will confirm this approval on March 24, after the SGS Council meeting. In the meantime, we hope you are able to place this item on the agenda of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs meeting scheduled for March 31. Approval of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs will permit inclusion of this new information into the SGS Calendar for 2004-2005. Please let me know if you require any further information.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

Encl.
/smr

c.c.	T. Chan	U. De Boni
	A. Drummond (with attachments)	
	C. Johnston	R. Sage
	L. Yee	S. Zaky (with attachments)

H:Council/FollowUp/2003-2004/March23/Botany Admission Requirement

Motion

School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Item 8.

8. Admission Requirement Changes:

8.1: Botany

MOTION (/) **THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Botany to change the admission requirements to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree programs, as specified in the attachment, effective September 2005.

See attached.

NOTE:

Division IV Executive Committee approved the proposal at its meeting of March 2, 2004.

With SGS Council approval, this item will go to Governing Council committees for information or approval as appropriate.

March 7, 2004

To: School of Graduate Studies Council
University of Toronto

From: Nancy G. Dengler, Graduate Coordinator
Department of Botany

Re: Changes to Admission requirements for Department of Botany

We wish to make the four changes listed below to the Department of Botany admission requirements.

1. Require a mid-B average in the year previous to the final year, as well as a B+ average in the final year, for admission to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs. We believe that considering the grade point average over 10 FCEs is a better indicator of an applicant's academic abilities than 5 FCEs.
2. Students with strong supporting supplementary evidence (usually in the form of a co-authorship on a refereed publication or a poster presentation) may be admitted to the program with a mid-B average in the final year.
3. Candidates for the Ph.D. degree may be accepted to the program by two routes, either by transferring from the M.Sc. program or following completion of an M.Sc. degree. The proposed wording change should indicate that acceptance is not automatic. The requirement for a Ph.D. proposal exam is specified under Program Requirements.
4. We propose including the requirement for an A- average in the final year for applicants wishing to enter a Ph.D. program directly from a B.Sc., in accordance with SGS requirements.

These changes have been approved by the Executive Committee of Division IV on March 2, 2004.

Botany BOT

Degree of Master of Science

Admission Requirements

A high academic standard is required for admission. Satisfactory performance will normally be demonstrated by an average grade in the final year, equivalent to a University of Toronto B+, or better and an average grade in the previous year of B. In exceptional circumstances, where there is strong supporting supplementary evidence, students with a mid-B average *in the final year* may be admitted to the program.

Program Requirements

M.Sc. candidates must complete one half-course during the program, preferably in the first year. The half-course may be either a BOT 1700 seminar series or a regular graduate course. Attendance at 80% of the departmental seminar series is a requirement. Original research and defence of a thesis are also required.

Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Admission Requirements

Candidates for the Ph.D. degree are generally *acceptable* by two routes, either by transferring from the M.Sc. program within 16-20 months of entering the graduate program or following completion of an M.Sc. degree. A student completing a B.Sc. with outstanding academic achievement (*A- average in final year*) and proven research accomplishments may be admitted directly to the Ph.D. program.

Program Requirements

For Ph.D. students there is a minimum formal course requirement of three half-courses for students who have completed a M.Sc., with the first half-course taken in the first year. It is strongly suggested that at least one of these be selected from the BOT 1700 series seminar course. The supervisory committee will evaluate the course work of Ph.D. applicants to determine if additional courses are required. Students that transfer from a M.Sc. to a Ph.D. program may count any course work completed prior to the transfer toward their Ph.D. requirements. However, transfer students are still expected to take one BOT 1700 series course during their Ph.D. program. It is expected that many Ph.D. students will continue to participate in seminar courses after their minimum requirement is completed. Attendance at 80% of the departmental seminar series is a requirement.

Within 16-20 months of first registration in the program, candidates present a research proposal to the Department. If the research proposal is deemed unsatisfactory by the examination committee, there is a single opportunity to present a revised proposal three months later. Ph.D. candidates make an oral presentation of their thesis for evaluation to the Department as a whole and to a departmental evaluation committee before proceeding to the School of Graduate Studies' Final Oral Examination.

Collaborative Programs

Developmental Biology (Collaborative Program)

The graduate departments of Biochemistry, Botany, Molecular and Medical Genetics, Physiology, and Zoology offer a collaborative Ph.D. program in Developmental Biology.

For full information on this collaborative program, see the Developmental Biology entry in this calendar.

Environmental Studies (Collaborative Program)

The graduate department of Botany, in conjunction with the Institute for Environmental Studies, offers a collaborative master's and doctorate program in environmental studies.

For a full description of this program, see the Environmental Studies entry in this calendar.

Proteomics and Bioinformatics (Collaborative Program)

The graduate departments of Biochemistry, Botany, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Medical and Molecular Genetics, Medical Biophysics, and the Institute of Medical Sciences offer a collaborative Ph.D. Program in Proteomics and Bioinformatics.

For full information on this collaborative program, see the Proteomics and Bioinformatics entry in this calendar.

Courses of Instruction

All courses are not given every year. Consult the Department each term regarding course offerings.