



# School of Graduate Studies

University of Toronto

February 2, 2005

07-3268

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

Dear Professor Goel:

At its meeting of January 25, 2005, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

**THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal to increase the minimum admission requirement for the M.Sc. and Ph.D. in the Nutritional Sciences program to an A-, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent bases, effective January 2006.

The motion and supporting documentation are attached. Division IV Executive approved the proposal at its meeting of January 4, 2005.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jane Alderdice  
Secretary to SGS Council  
and Director, Quality Assessment and Governance

Encl.

c.c.	V. Tarasuk	A. Drummond	C. Johnston	H. Lasthiotakis	S. Pfeiffer
	M. Archer	L. Yee	U. De Boni	S. Zaky (attachments)	

## Motion

### School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, January 25, 2005

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Item 9.

Proposal to change program requirements for the following program:

#### 9.4: Department of Nutritional Sciences

**MOTION** (   /   ) **THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal to increase the minimum admission requirement for the M.Sc. and Ph.D. in the Nutritional Sciences program to an A-, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective January 2006.

*See proposal attached.*

#### **NOTE:**

Division IV Executive Committee, at its meeting of January 4, 2005, approved this proposal. With SGS Council approval, this item will go to Governing Council committees for approval.

School of Graduate Studies  
University of Toronto  
**Graduate Proposal Requirements for Governance Form**

1. **Graduate Unit: Department of Nutritional Sciences**  
*(graduate department/centre/institute)*
2. **Graduate Program/s involved in proposal:**  
*(including degree level)*
  - PhD
  - MSc
3. **Contact name, e-mail address and telephone #:**  
*(name and contact information of individual from the department who will attend meetings to serve as the official department spokesperson on the proposal)*

**Valerie Tarasuk**  
**Graduate Coordinator**  
**Department of Nutritional Sciences**  
**Tel: 416-978-0618**  
**Fax: 416-978-5882**  
**Valerie.tarasuk@utoronto.ca**
4. **Previous Action Taken:**  
*(explain how the proposal was approved in the department, and in the divisional Faculty, if appropriate)*
  - Developed by the Graduate Affairs Committee (Nov 15/04), circulated to all graduate faculty via email for comment, amended, and given final approval by the Graduate Affairs Committee (Nov 29/04).
5. **Brief Summary of Proposed Change:**  
*(Most changes require Calendar revisions. See Note 1 at the end of this form. Changes also include additions and deletions of requirements or regulations).*

The Department of Nutritional Sciences requests approval from SGS to 1) raise the minimum standard for admission to the MSc program from a "mid-B standing" to "A-standing in the final two years or evidence of strong potential as a researcher"; and 2) raise the minimum standard for entry into the PhD program from "at least a B+ standing" in the MSc degree to "at least A- standing or evidence of strong potential as a researcher".

**6. Proposed Effective Date:**

*(SGS reserves the right to alter the effective date, taking into consideration our legal responsibilities to prospective and current students. Changes to admission and program requirements for the next SGS Calendar must be submitted by the January Executive Committee and Council agenda deadlines. See further important information to consider regarding selection of an effective date in Note 2 below.)*

**January**      **2006**  
Month          Year

**7. Rationale:**

*(Provide an explanation about why the change is being proposed and its anticipated effect on the program and students enrolled in it. Attach letter, if appropriate.)*

This proposal formalizes the existing practice. We typically do not accept students into our MSc or PhD programs if they have less than A- standing unless they provide some other evidence of strong research potential. Our programs are highly competitive, and this standard helps to ensure that we admit strong students. It also means that most of our students are competitive for external awards. However, the current calendar entry does not communicate our admission practices, and we receive dozens of applications from individuals who do not have an A- standing in their prior degrees. Changing the stated admission requirements will have no impact on our programs, but it will reduce the number of applications we must process from individuals who are not admissible to our programs.

**8. Financial and/or Planning Implications:**

*(Provide a clear statement indicating that there are no financial implications or, if there are financial implications, provide details. If the financial impact is substantial, provide a budget statement or other documentation.)*

None

**Submitted by:**          Michael Archer  
*(Chair of graduate unit or designate)*

**Date:**                      **03/12/04**