



# University of Toronto

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OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Edith Hillan  
CONTACT INFO: edith.hillan@utoronto.ca

DATE: September 15, 2004 for the meeting on September 22, 2004

AGENDA ITEM: 11(g)

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

School of Graduate Studies proposal that the Department of Medical Biophysics to change the credit requirements of the Ph.D. Program so that students receive one credit for MBP1015, when these students have not already received a credit for this course in the M.Sc. program. This change is proposed to be effective as of September 2004.

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee has general responsibility for policy on, and for monitoring, minor changes within degree programs.

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The School of Graduate Studies approved this proposal at its Council meeting on May 25, 2004.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Graduate Seminar Course, MBP1015, is currently required for all MSc students in Medical Biophysics (MBP). Students in the PhD program are also required to take full part in the course and present seminars, receiving, however, no credit for doing so. This is not problematic for the vast majority of PhD students, who have received a credit for MBP1015 from their time in the MSc program. However, students who have entered the PhD program directly, either having completed an MSc elsewhere or, on very rare circumstances, directly from undergraduate, will not receive a credit for MBP1015 on their transcript, despite their participation in the course. The proposal formally recognizes these students participation, ensures that all students who have been through MBP receive one credit for MBP1015, and provides a motivation for those affected students to integrate into the PhD community within MBP.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the program change.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For Information.



# School of Graduate Studies

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University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

May 28, 2004

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

Dear Professor Goel:

At its meeting of May 25, 2004, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

**THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Medical Biophysics to change the requirements of the Ph.D. Program, as specified in the attachment, effective September 2004.

The motion and supporting documentation are attached. Division IV Executive Committee approved the proposal at its meeting of May 4, 2004.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

Encl. (1)  
/smr

c.c.	T. Chan	U. DeBoni	A. Drummond (attachments)
	C. Johnston	J. Lepock	D. Rose
	L. Yee	S. Zaky (attachments)	

H:Council/FollowUp/2003-2004/May 25/Medical Biophysics Ph.D. Program Requirement Change

## Motion

### School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, May 25, 2004

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Item 11.

#### 11. Program Requirement Changes

##### 11.6 Medical Biophysics, Ph.D.

**MOTION ( / ) THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Medical Biophysics to change the requirements of the Ph.D. Program, as specified in the attachment, effective September 2004.

*See attached.*

#### **NOTE:**

Division IV Executive Committee approved this proposal at its meeting of May 4, 2004.

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

To: Associate Dean Umberto Deboni,  
Division IV, School of Graduate Studies  
March 30, 2004

**Re: Required Credit Change, PhD Program, Department of Medical Biophysics**

**Background:**

The Graduate Seminar Course, MBP1015, is currently required for all MSc students in Medical Biophysics (MBP). MSc students present seminars in at least the first two of their years in the MSc program and are assigned a grade for the course based on their second talk. In addition all students are expected to participate as attendees every week. Students in the PhD program are also required to take full part in the course and present seminars. However, they receive no academic credit for doing so. This is not problematic for the vast majority of PhD students, who have received a credit for MBP1015 from their time in the MSc program. However, students who have entered the PhD program directly, either having completed an MSc elsewhere or, on very rare circumstances, directly from undergraduate, will not receive a credit for MBP1015 on their transcript, despite their participation in the course.

**Proposal:**

We propose to grant one credit to PhD students for MBP1015, when these students have not already received a credit for this course in the MSc program.

**Impact on Student Program:**

For the small number of students affected by this proposal (4-6 per year), there will be no change in their required workload, since they are already expected to participate in the seminar course. The proposal formally recognizes their participation, ensures that all students who have been through MBP have received one credit for MBP1015, and provides a motivation for those affected students to integrate into the PhD community within MBP. The proposal requires formal SGS approval as, for those affected students only, it does represent an additional required credit.

David R. Rose,  
Graduate Coordinator,  
Department of Medical Biophysics

### **Degree of Master of Science**

Candidates are accepted under the general regulations. Students with diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Applicants from outside Canada are required to provide GRE (general) scores with their application. All candidates with a B.Sc. degree are enrolled in the M.Sc. program; qualified students can reclassify for the Ph.D. degree during their second year. The course requirements will depend on the subject chosen for study and on the background of the candidate. The M.Sc. program usually requires two years and includes both course work and research. To qualify for a degree, the student must successfully complete all degree MBP 1015Y Biophysics Seminar, two additional full-course equivalents, course requirements, and pass an oral examination on the topic of the thesis. It should be noted that admission to the Ph.D. program is highly selective and attainment of minimal standing as an M.Sc. student does not guarantee admission to the Ph.D. program.

### **Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

Candidates for the Ph.D. degree can be accepted by two routes, either via reclassification from the M.Sc. program or under the general regulations after completion of an M.Sc. degree in biological, physical, chemical, or medical sciences.

Except by special arrangements, candidates are required to be on campus and participating full-time until all program requirements are completed. Because of the broad range of topics available for thesis research and because of the different backgrounds of students accepted in the Department, each student will, in consultation with his or her supervisor, plan a program of study that provides the appropriate background for the area of investigation. ~~All candidates are required to complete a minimum of three full-~~

All candidates must complete the required four course credits as outlined in the Graduate Student Handbook.

~~course credits. Candidates~~Candidates who transfer/reclassify into the doctoral program or who have completed a M.Sc. degree in Medical Biophysics will receive credit for all courses taken during their M.Sc. program in Medical Biophysics. ~~two full-course equivalents and will have only one full-course equivalent to complete to fulfil the three-course credit requirement.~~ Candidates who completed their M.Sc. degree in a department other than Medical Biophysics may request exemption for one full-course credit, one full-course credit for that degree. These candidates must still complete or be formally exempt\* from the required courses for the Medical Biophysics M.Sc. degree.

~~M.Sc. students who transfer to the doctoral program may receive partial credit towards doctoral course requirements for courses taken while in the M.Sc. program.~~

All Ph.D. students are expected to participate in MBP 1015Y (Biophysics Seminar Course) regardless of whether they previously received credit for it or not.

\*In the Medical Biophysics program, exemption from a required course does not reduce the number of courses that you are required to take. Exemption means you would be required to substitute another course (or courses) in its place.