



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: February 20, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

**School of Graduate Studies: Direct-entry admission option in the Faculty of Arts and Science
Institute for History of Science and Philosophy of Science and Technology Ph.D. program**

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has the authority to approve admission policies relating to minor changes to individual programs or to divisional practices and policies.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Institute for History of Science and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST) proposes changes to the admission requirements of the doctoral degree in order to allow direct entry into the program. The Institute aims to admit undergraduate applicants of exceptional potential directly into the doctoral stream program viewing this as an opportunity to renew their commitment to excellence and to continue to attract the very best applicants nationally and internationally.

In most cases, doctoral applicants will already have an M.A. or M.Sc. Direct entry to the doctoral program for students with an appropriate Bachelor's degree is proposed in certain circumstances, although students will be required to complete additional course work. The University of Toronto expects that Direct Entry will be available only to exceptionally well-qualified students.

Direct entry admission to the PhD program will be permitted with the following course requirements:

- i) Direct-entry students would be required to take 13 half courses in the first two years. These courses include HPS2000Y (extended research paper) in year two.
- ii) In the History of Science stream students will take three History of Science Fundamentals half courses and two Philosophy of Science half courses. In the Philosophy of Science stream students must take three Philosophy of Science half courses and two History of Science half courses. Three must be completed in year one.
- iii) Students must take at least one half course equivalent from each of the historical periods pre-renaissance, renaissance and the beginning of the nineteenth century to the present.
- iv) Direct-entry students should maintain an average of at least A- with no mark lower than a B+ at the end of the first year, with a cumulative average of at least A- at the end of the second year with no individual grade less than B+. The grade on HPS2000Y should be at least A-.

Consultations within IHPST with faculty and graduate students have been conducted. Similarly, Philosophy Department personnel who might be affected, e.g., by the Philosophy of Science stream, have been consulted, as well as the Graduate Coordinator in Philosophy. All the major stakeholders are satisfied with the proposed changes. The proposal was approved by the Council of the School of Graduate Studies on January 24, 2006.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

THAT the proposed direct-entry admission option for the Ph.D. program in the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology be approved, effective September 2006.