



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs  
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DATE: May 2, 2012 for May 15, 2012  
AGENDA ITEM: 4

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

**Proposal for a new Major in Environmental Studies, within the existing Honours B.A., University of Toronto Scarborough.**

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approves new undergraduate programs within an existing degree, as defined by the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process. (*Terms of Reference, Section 4.4.b.i*)

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

This is a proposal for a new Honours B.A. Major in Environmental Studies, University of Toronto Scarborough.

This program is seen as an important addition to the suite of Environmental Science offerings at the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) including:

- Specialist program in environmental biology,
- Specialist program in environmental chemistry,
- Specialist program in environmental geoscience,
- Specialist program in environmental physics,
- Major program in environmental science,
- Minor program in environmental science,
- Specialist (joint) program in environmental science and technology with Centennial College,
- Professional Masters in Environmental Science, and
- PhD in Environmental Science.

The proposed Environmental Studies major program is intended to provide an option for students particularly interested in the social context of environmental issues. The title of the program is

consistent with similar programs at other universities in Canada: the program name “Studies” rather than “Science” in the context of UTSC is intended to indicate the significant social science component within the program. As a Major the program is designed as an excellent companion to majors such as Anthropology, Human Geography, Political Science, Public Policy, Sociology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Environmental Science, Biology, Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution, Physics and Astrophysics, and Physical Sciences.

The new program is highly interdisciplinary and has been structured intentionally to expose students to a wide range of disciplinary perspectives while at the same time providing ample opportunity through core required courses and a team-based upper year project to create a cohort learning experience and help students integrate what they have learned.

The proposed program has been the subject of consultation with faculty at both University Toronto Mississauga and the St. George campus and also between the Tri Campus Deans where it has received complete support.

The program was subject to external appraisal on April 1, 2012 and received a very positive report by Dr. Ben Cashore, Professor of Environmental Governance and Political Science, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University. The final proposal received approval from the Academic Committee of the UTSC Council on April 17th. The Academic Committee is responsible for providing final divisional governance approval for all curriculum matters.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:** Any new/additional financial obligations resulting from this program will be met at the Divisional level.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approves:

THAT the proposed Major in Environmental Studies, within the existing Honours B.A., as described in the attached proposal from the University of Toronto Scarborough 3 February 2012, be approved effective for the academic year 2013-14.