



Undergraduate Program Closure Proposals, 2013-2014 Calendar January 22, 2013

The Faculty of Arts & Science (FAS) departments, centres, and institutes review their undergraduate offerings on a regular basis and may propose the closure of an academic program. Three undergraduate program closures are proposed for the 2013-14 calendar year:

Munk School of Global Affairs and Trinity College

International Relations/Peace and Conflict Studies Joint (IR/PCJ) Specialist:

The joint IR/PCJ Specialist program proposed for closure pursuant to the Curriculum Renewal process undertaken by FAS. As currently structured, the program is not sufficiently distinct from either the IR programs or the PCJ program to warrant retention. Students will achieve comparable (or superior) learning outcomes by pursuing a double Major in IR and PCJ. Students currently enrolled in the joint Specialist would be able to complete their program as planned.

Department of Mathematics

Math and its Application Specialist (Computer Science)

Unlike the other specialists in Math and its Application, the Computer Science one requires a simultaneous registration as a major in computer science. The department proposes to close this program due to low enrolment (total of 4, with no students in year 2). In addition, students pay additional fees for the Computer Science courses and are given lower priority for enrolment into courses. Students particularly interested in mathematical aspects of computer science are advised to enrol in a Specialist program in Computer Science with an added Math Major or Minor component.

Math and its Application Specialist (Design Own)

The Design Your Own Specialist has not found the expected or intended acceptance among students. It was found that this Specialist appears as a risky or difficult option for students faced with the additional task of finding their direction. Enrolments for this concentration option have remained very low over the year (total of 1), with no enrolment in the last two year.

The full proposals are provided in Appendix A and include the academic rationales and consultation processes for the proposed closures.

As per the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP)¹ and Faculty's processes, recommendations for program closures require approval by the appropriate FAS Curriculum Committee (Humanities Curriculum Committee, Sciences Curriculum Committee, and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee), Faculty Council and University governance. In addition, the Life Sciences Planning Curriculum Committee reviews all new entries and revisions in order to

¹ <http://www.vpacademic.utoronto.ca/Assets/VP+Academic+Digital+Assets/pdf/UTQAP+document.pdf>

harmonize Life Sciences courses and programs across the St. George Campus.² Each Committee is composed of teaching staff, students, principals, and program academic administrators. The Committees meet over the course of the fall and winter to consider new courses, programs, and program requirements proposed by academic units in their respective area.³ The consultation process within academic units is documented in the proposals presented to the curriculum committees.

The proposed program closures were approved by the Curriculum Committees:

Mathematics - Sciences Curriculum Committee (20 November 2012)

Joint specialist - Social Sciences Curriculum Committee (21 November 2012)

² <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/cpad-info/pdfs/ctte/LifeSciencesPlanningCttee.pdf/view>

³ See <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/faculty-governance/curriculum-committees> for the schedule and documentation for all the FAS Curriculum Committees



APPENDIX A

University of Toronto Closure of an Existing Program Proposal (Undergraduate)

(This template has been developed in line with the University of Toronto's Quality Assurance Process.)

Section 1

Closure Proposed: International Relations/Peace and Conflict Studies Joint (IR/PCJ) Specialist

Department / Unit (if applicable): International Relations Program (IR), Trinity College; Peace, Conflict & Justice Program (PCJ), Munk School of Global Affairs

Faculty / Academic Division: Arts and Science

Faculty / Academic Division contact: Anne-Marie Brousseau

Department / Unit contact: Mairi MacDonald, Director IR; Wendy Wong, Director PCJ

Effective date program will be closed to new admissions: June 2013

Effective date of full closure of program: June 2015

(date by which students currently in the program will be expected to graduate)

Version Date: 15 January 2013

Section 2

1. Brief Summary

The joint IR/PCJ Specialist program is proposed for closure pursuant to the Curriculum Renewal process review. As currently structured, the program is not sufficiently distinct from either the IR programs or the PCJ programs to warrant retention. Students would achieve comparable (or superior) learning outcomes by pursuing a double Major in IR and PCJ. Students currently enrolled in the joint Specialist would be able to complete their program as planned.

IR and PCJ program directors have consulted with one another, with currently enrolled students and with the FAS Dean's office. The IR program director has also consulted extensively with the relevant unit head (Trinity College Dean of Arts).

2. Rationale

The joint IR/PCJ Specialist was first created in 1995 and has been offered continuously since then. It has always had very limited enrollment (currently 23 students over three years).

The decision to propose the closure of the program was spurred by the FAS Curriculum Review process. Now that all Major programs in the Faculty of Arts & Science must include at least one 0.5 FCE at the 400-level, the Faculty invited units to assess their joint Specialist programs to ensure they present substantive differences from the corresponding double Major programs. On review, it has become apparent that students graduating from this joint Specialist may have less exposure to the discipline than those who graduate as IR Majors. Thus our choice was either to significantly increase the requirements of the joint IR/PCJ Specialist so that its graduates minimally meet all the requirements of both Majors and beyond, or to close the program. Students who wish to obtain a sufficient grounding in IR and also to specialize in the type of analysis or issue focus enabled by the PCJ program would be encouraged, instead, to pursue a double Major in IR and PCJ.

3. Impact on Other Programs/Units of the Proposed Closure

The programs primarily affected are IR and PCJ, which have consulted on several occasions and at several levels. Both programs rely on courses provided by other departments such as History and Political Science. In view of the very low enrollment in the joint IR/PCJ Specialist program, the impact of the proposed closure on these departments will be very small, if at all perceptible. Closure would have a slightly positive impact on existing staffing resources. Currently, both programs must review prerequisites for (and potentially conduct interviews with) applicants to the joint IR/PCJ Specialist program.

We are not aware of any inter-divisional or inter-institutional agreements or contracts affected by this proposal.

All IR/PCJ courses required by the Specialist program will continue to be offered as part of the IR Specialist or PCJ Specialist program.

4. Student Accommodation and Consultation

- *Current enrollment showing breakdown by year in the program/option being closed.*

	<i>Year one</i>	<i>Year two</i>	<i>Year three</i>	<i>Year four</i>
<i>Current enrollment</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>

Students currently enrolled in the joint Specialist would be able to complete their program as planned. It is anticipated that all students will complete the program by June 2015 (that is, students currently in year 2 can complete the program in the ordinary course). If they do not complete the program by that deadline, students may easily transfer to one or more of the IR Specialist, IR Major, PCJ Specialist or PCJ Major programs. This will have no or little impact on capacity or course availability.

We propose that inactive students not be permitted to reactivate to the closed program. Instead, they will be directed to one of the other programs available or to the double major in IR and PCJ.

The PCJ director, Wendy Wong, met with the joint specialists on November 20, 2012. About 12 students were in attendance, and only three of them expressed concerns with the closure. Some key points were:

- Without the 'joint' designation, fewer people will be inclined to declare just a PCJ specialist as many grad schools will ask if you graduated from 'international relations' not 'peace and conflict studies'.
- Students were concerned about what would happen to current joint specialists as they progress through the program prior to being reassured that their treatment would not change.
- Students wondered about access to courses in other departments necessary to fulfill their degree requirements.

The directors of the IR and PCJ programs note the following with respect to these points: the double Major in IR and PCJ will permit students to develop depth of knowledge in both areas, which their transcripts will reflect; the current PCJ Specialist program is popular, and students in the program have not reported any difficulty convincing graduate programs of the adequacy of their preparation; and, with respect to the last point, the elimination of this program will have no impact whatsoever. This concern is common among students of many interdisciplinary programs.

5. Faculty / Staff Accommodation

What is the impact, if any, on faculty and staff of the closure?

The impact will be minimal and, if anything, slightly positive. In view of the small numbers involved, it should have no appreciable impact on instructing faculty and staff.

6. Governance Process

	<i>Levels of Approval Required</i>
<i>Decanal / Provostial Sign Off</i>	
	Faculty/Divisional Council (approval of closure of minors, where there is a continuing specialist or major)
<i>Submission to Provost's Office</i>	
	AP&P (approval of program closures: undergraduate specialists/majors; minors where there is no specialist or major)
	Academic Board (approval of degree closures)
	Executive Committee of Governing Council (executive confirms degree, graduate program, diploma closures)
<i>Inclusion in Annual Report to Quality Council</i>	
<i>Inclusion in Annual Report to MTCU (in case of closure of degree)</i>	

University of Toronto

Closure of an Existing Program Proposal (Undergraduate)

(This template has been developed in line with the University of Toronto's Quality Assurance Process.)

Section 1

Closure Proposed: Mathematics and its Applications Specialist (Design your Own)

Department / Unit (if applicable): Mathematics

Faculty / Academic Division: Arts and Science

Faculty / Academic Division contact: Anne-Marie Brousseau

Department / Unit contact: Professor Eckhard Meinrenken

Effective date program will be closed to new admissions: June 2013

Effective date of full closure of program: September 2014

Version Date: 18 January 2013

Section 2

Brief Summary

The Mathematics and its Applications (Design your Own) Specialist is proposed for closure pursuant to the Curriculum Renewal process review. This program has not found the expected or intended acceptance among students. It was found that this Specialist appears as a risky or difficult option for students faced with the additional task of finding their direction. Enrolments for this concentration option have remained very low over the year (total of 1), with no enrolment in the last two years.

1. Rationale

Mathematics can be combined with almost any field of human enquiry. Since it is impossible to cover all possible directions in the context of specific programs, the department created the '*Design your Own*' Specialist program to allow maximum flexibility in this regard. The rationale was that if a student can come up with a combined program of study, with sufficient mathematics content to justify the specialist designation, the Mathematics department would be willing to accommodate those plans.

As it turned out, this concentration has not found the expected or intended acceptance among students. It was found that program does not benefit students demand well, for students are faced with the additional task of finding their direction. Furthermore, there is already the possibility for all FAS students to request a self-designed program. Enrolments for this program have remained very low over the years (currently one student only), with no enrolment at all in the last two years.

2. Impact on other programs/units of the proposed closure

We do not anticipate any significant impact on other programs. No other units or departments are affected.

3. Student Accommodation and Consultation

	<i>Year one</i>	<i>Year two</i>	<i>Year three</i>	<i>Year four</i>
<i>Current enrolment</i>	<i>#0</i>	<i>#0</i>	<i>#0</i>	<i>#1</i>

There is only one active student enrolled, who will be allowed to finish this program. No specific deadline will be imposed.
 On January 16, 2013 an e-mail regarding the program closure was sent out to the MAT student union as well as to all students in the mathematics programs. In this e-mail we explained the rationale for the program closure, assuring that students currently enrolled in these programs will not be affected, and asked for feedback in case of questions or concerns.

4. Faculty / Staff Accommodation

What is the impact, if any, on faculty and staff of the closure?

N/A

5. Governance Process

	<i>Levels of Approval Required</i>
<i>Decanal / Provostial Sign Off</i>	
	Faculty/Divisional Council (approval of closure of minors, where there is a continuing (specialist or major))
<i>Submission to Provost's Office</i>	
	AP&P (approval of program closures: undergrad specialists/majors; minors where there is no specialist of major))
	Academic Board (approval of degree closures)
	Executive Committee of Governing Council (executive confirms degree, grad program, diploma closures)
<i>Inclusion in Annual report to Quality Council</i>	
<i>Inclusion in Annual report to MTCU (in case of closure of degree)</i>	

*Developed by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs, April 4, 2011
Adapted for undergraduate by the Dean's Office, Faculty of Arts and Science, January 20, 2012*

University of Toronto

Closure of an Existing Program Proposal (Undergraduate)

Section 1

Closure Proposed: Mathematics and its Applications (Computer Science)

Department / Unit (if applicable): Mathematics

Faculty / Academic Division: Arts and Science

Faculty / Academic Division contact: Anne-Marie Brousseau

Department / Unit contact: Professor Eckhard Meinrenken

Effective date program will be closed to new admissions: June 2013

Effective date of full closure of program: June 2016

Version Date: 18 January 2013

Section 2

Brief Summary

The Mathematics and its Applications (Computer Sciences) Specialist is proposed for closure pursuant to the Curriculum Renewal process review. Unlike the other Mathematics and its Application specialists, the Computer Science one requires a simultaneous registration as a Major in Computer Science. This implies that students pay additional fees for the Computer Science courses and are given lower priority than Computer Science specialists for enrolment into some courses. The department proposes to close the program due to these inherent difficulties and to low enrolment (total of 6). Students particularly interested in mathematical aspects of computer science will be better served by enrolling in a Specialist program in Computer Science with an added Major or Minor component in Mathematics.

7. Rationale

The *Mathematics and its Applications (Computer Science)* Specialist program was aimed at students interested in mathematical aspects of computer science. Unlike the other programs, this one required a simultaneous registration as a major in computer science. The department has decided to close this program due to low enrolment, and due to some coordination problems with the computer science department. Specifically, students had to pay additional fees for the Computer Science courses, and were given lower priority for enrolment into courses. For these reasons, it was felt that students interested in mathematical aspects of computer science would be better advised to do a Specialist program in Computer Science with an added Major or Minor in Mathematics.

8. Impact on other programs/units of the proposed closure

The closure of this program will have no significant impact on the suite of programs offered by the Mathematics Department. There will also be no impact on the programs of the Computer Science

department, as explained above.

9. Student Accommodation and Consultation

	<i>Year one</i>	<i>Year two</i>	<i>Year three</i>	<i>Year four</i>
<i>Current enrolment</i>	#0	#1	#1	#4

All of the current students will be allowed to complete their program, with no specific deadline. For the future, students interested in combinations of computer science and mathematics have the alternative option of registering for a Computer Science Specialist Program in conjunction with a Mathematics Major or Minor program.

On January 16, 2013 an e-mail regarding the program closure was sent out to the MAT student union as well as to all students in the mathematics programs. In this e-mail we explained the rationale for the program closure, assuring that students currently enrolled in these programs will not be affected, and asked for feedback in case of questions or concerns.

10. Faculty / Staff Accommodation

N/A

11. Governance Process

	<i>Levels of Approval Required</i>
<i>Decanal / Provostial Sign Off</i>	
	Faculty/Divisional Council (approval of closure of minors, where there is a continuing (specialist or major)
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