



**FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**PUBLIC**

**OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

**SPONSOR:** Sioban Nelson, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

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**PRESENTER:** As above

**CONTACT INFO:** As above

**DATE:** February 4, 2014 for February 26, 2014

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Proposal for the closure of the Major in Logic within the existing Honours Bachelor of Arts, University of Toronto Mississauga.

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

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

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. Academic Affairs Committee, UTM [For Recommendation] (January 9, 2014)
2. **Committee on Academic Policy & Programs [For Approval] (February 25, 2014)**

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

Recommended for approval by AAC, UTM January 9, 2014.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

This is a proposal to close the Honours Bachelor of Arts Major Program in Logic offered by the Department of Philosophy at UTM effective September 1, 2016.

The Logic Major has been offered for more than 20 years. Over the last number of years interest in the Major has declined and enrolment in specialized logic courses has been low. This is in line

with trends at other Universities where logic is rarely offered as a standalone program at the undergraduate level. On the advice of a recent department review and following extended discussion and consultation within both the Department of Philosophy and with the Department of Mathematical and Computational Sciences at UTM, the decision was made to close the program.

The Department will continue to offer both a Major and a Specialist program in Philosophy, which include some logic content (every student is required to take PHL245H5 *Modern Symbolic Logic* and additional courses in Logic can be taken to satisfy requirements). Students will continue to have the option of majoring in Philosophy with a Minor in Mathematics or Computational Sciences (or majoring in either of the latter with a minor in the former) which would allow them to pursue much the same interests as the Logic Major currently allows. Courses in logic will continue to be offered, allowing students in progress (of which there are 46 across all years) to complete the Major. It is anticipated that all students in progress will have completed the program by September 1, 2016 at which point the program will be closed.

Admissions to this program was suspended effective September 1, 2013. A notice concerning the pending closure of the programs has been placed on the Departmental website and will appear in the UTM Academic Calendar.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None

**RECOMMENDATION:**

BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the proposed closure of the Major in Logic in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Toronto Mississauga within the existing Honours Bachelor of Arts, as described in the attached proposal from the University of Toronto Mississauga dated December 5, 2013, be approved.

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**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

Logic Major Closure Proposal



## University of Toronto Proposal for the Closure of an Existing Program (Graduate or Undergraduate)

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

*The process followed for the closure of any program is the same as that required for the approval of any new such program.*

<b>Closure Proposed:</b> <b>Please specify precisely what is being closed:</b> i.e., Graduate diploma, field, certificate, option within a program (e.g., specialist, major, or minor), entire program, or degree (graduate or undergraduate)	<b>Logic Major (ERMAJ1736)</b>
<b>Department / Unit (if applicable):</b>	<b>Department of Philosophy</b>
<b>Faculty / Academic Division:</b>	<b>University of Toronto Mississauga</b>
<b>Faculty / Academic Division contact:</b>	<b>Melissa Berger          Program and Curriculum Officer          Office of the Dean, UTM          melissa.berger@utoronto.ca</b>
<b>Department / Unit contact:</b>	<b>Sergio Tenenbaum          Department of Philosophy, UTM          chair.philosophy.utm@utoronto.ca</b>
<b>Effective date program will be closed to new admissions:</b>	<b>September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013</b>
<b>Effective date of full closure of program:</b> (date by which students currently in the program will be expected to graduate)	<b>September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016</b>
<b>Version Date:</b>	<b>December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013</b>

## 1 Brief Summary

This is a proposal to close the Major program in Logic. The Logic Major has been offered for more than 20 years. Over the last number of years interest in the major has declined. It has attracted some student interest, but unfortunately students have rarely graduated with this Major. Admissions to the Logic Major will be closed as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The Department will continue to offer both a Major and a Specialist program in Philosophy, which include some logic content (every student is required to take PHL245H5 *Modern Symbolic Logic* and additional courses in Logic can be taken to satisfy requirements). The Logic Major is a joint program between the Departments of Philosophy and Mathematical and Computational Sciences and there has been extensive consultation with the faculty and the Chairs of both Departments. Students will continue to have the option of majoring in Philosophy with a Minor in Mathematics or Computational Sciences (or vice-versa) which would allow them to pursue much the same interests as the Logic Major currently allows. Both Departments felt that the continuation of the Logic Major would not be beneficial to our students.

## 2 Rationale

The major was created in the 1980s at a time in when there was significant Faculty interest in the area and Logic had a prominent position in the field. Over time, student and Faculty interest in this area has waned and course enrollments/subject POST registrations have declined as a result.

Although the number of students currently enrolled in the Major is apparently high (46), only 5 students have graduated with the Logic Major in the last 7 years. There are a few courses in the program (PHL347H5 *Many-Valued and Modal Logics*, PHL348H5 *Metalogic*, PHL350H5 *Philosophy of Language*, and PHL451H5 *Seminar in Philosophy of Language and Logic*) which have very low enrolments which is costing the Department resources in order to offer these courses with the frequency (ideally at least every other year) that the Logic Major requires.

Although the Department still has strong Faculty who teach in this area (and Logic still is an important concentration in Philosophy), the conditions today are significantly different. The landscape across North America has changed and almost no other university offers a specialized Logic major at the Undergraduate level. Specialized Logic courses traditionally attract relatively few students and consequently the Logic Major requires a significant investment of teaching resources. In a recent External Review of the Department the reviewers agreed, concluding that “our own view is that a specialized program of this nature should be maintained on the campus only if there are UTM faculty who are passionately invested in its maintenance and flourishing”. The Department believes its resources could be better used elsewhere, providing courses that can potentially attract a larger number of students”.

### 3 Impact on other programs/units of the proposed closure

The Logic Major program requires students to take Mathematics and Computer Science courses in addition to Philosophy courses. There has been extensive consultation with the Chair and faculty within the Department of Mathematical and Computational Sciences and they have expressed no objection to the closure of this program. Due to low numbers in the program, the impact on both departments will be minimal.

### 4 Student Accommodation

**Table 1: Undergraduate**

	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year four
Current enrolment	#2	#34	#9	#1

**Table 2: Graduate Breakdown**

Current enrolment Masters	N/A					
Current enrolment PhD	N/A					

All the courses in the Logic Major will still be offered on a regular basis (though not as frequently), and students currently enrolled in the major will be able to complete all necessary requirements for the program should they wish to do so. The program will be closed when all students have graduated, which is anticipated to be in September 2016. Students registered in the program were contacted and informed about the proposed closure of the Logic Major and asked to express any concerns they may have. The students raised no concerns. In addition, students were offered academic counseling. The Department offers a number of courses in related fields that could be substituted if, for any reason, the students are not able to take the required courses for completion of the Logic Major. We will also post information about the closure of the program in our website, and update the academic calendar accordingly.

### 5 Faculty / Staff Accommodation

There will be a slight change to the frequency of when certain courses will be offered due to the closing of the Logic Major. However, this is no different than with normal schedule changes

that routinely affect Faculty options regarding course offerings. Moreover, all the Faculty teaching these courses have been informed of these changes and they have the unanimous support of all our Faculty members. Since the Logic major required very minimal administrative support, there is no impact on our support staff.

## 6 Governance Process

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