

FOR APPROVAL

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTSC Academic Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: Prof. Karin Ruhlandt, Vice-Principal Academic and Dean
CONTACT INFO: 416-208-7027, ypdean.utsc@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: Prof. Rene Harrison, Vice-Dean Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
CONTACT INFO: vdgraduate.utsc@utoronto.ca

DATE: March 19, 2025 for March 26, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 8

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Minor Modifications: Graduate Curriculum Changes, UTSC (For approval)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The UTSC Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) “is concerned with matters affecting the teaching, learning and research functions of the Campus (AAC *Terms of Reference*, section 4).” Under section 5.6 of its *Terms of Reference*, the AAC is responsible for approval of “major and minor modifications to existing degree programs.”

The AAC has responsibility for the approval of major and minor modifications to existing programs as defined by the [University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process](#) (UTQAP, Section 3.1 and 3.3).

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. UTSC Academic Affairs Committee [For Approval] (March 26, 2025)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action in governance has been taken on this item.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This package contains minor modifications to the graduate curriculum submitted by UTSC academic units listed below. These changes require governance approval. Minor modifications are defined as

adjustments that do not substantially alter program or course learning outcomes but may involve modest changes to the structure of a program or course. Upon approval, these updates will be implemented for the 2025-2026 academic year.

- Graduate Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences (Report: Graduate Minor Curriculum Modifications Management for Approval)
 - 1 Course modification
 - EES1100H: Internship and Research Preparedness – Advanced Seminar in Environmental Science

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no significant financial implications to the campus operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved:

THAT the proposed graduate curriculum changes for the 2025-26 academic year, as detailed in the respective curriculum report, be approved.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

1. Report – Graduate Minor Curriculum Modifications for Approval



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

University of Toronto Scarborough
2025-26 Curriculum Cycle
Graduate Minor Curriculum Modifications for Approval
Date: March 26, 2025

Physical and Environmental Sciences, Department of (Graduate Unit)

1 Course Modification

EES1100H: Internship and Research Preparedness – Advanced Seminar in Environmental Science

Title:

Previous: Advanced Seminar in Environmental Science

New: Internship and Research Preparedness – Advanced Seminar in Environmental Science

Description:

Previous: This course is designed to introduce students to the key topics of relevance to research in their chosen fields of study in environmental science. In the first term, seminar speakers are drawn from faculty, visiting researchers and environmental science practitioners. In the winter term, students are required to participate in a group seminar that focuses on solutions to a current environmental problem. The class meets biweekly for academic content throughout the fall and winter; alternate weeks may be used for in-program professional skills development exercises. The course is restricted to those students enrolled in the MEnvSc Program.

New: This course aims to prepare MEnvSc students for their internships or research placements, and for early career employment in the environmental sector. The course structure helps students solidify professional competencies and obtain in-demand applied skills that complement existing knowledge and formal courses. The MEnvSc program hosts students with diverse educational backgrounds, career goals, and life experience – as such, students will self-select short courses to develop additional applied skills. *EES1100H* also facilitates workshops on essential community awareness factors that will help prepare students for diverse workplaces and community engagement. Success in this course depends on the completion of activities, assignments, short courses, and active engagement with course materials, peers, and invited speakers.

Graduate Course Type:

Previous: Standard

New: Seminar (Graded)

Rationale:

1. Course title and description: The course has historically been taught by various faculty members and sessional instructors, leading to an outdated title and description that no longer reflect its current structure. The proposed changes ensure alignment with how the course is taught and provide clearer expectations for students.
2. Change from Standard CR/NCR to Seminar Graded: The course format has evolved to incorporate seminar grading, utilizing multiple assessments based on the SGS grading scale. This structure does not translate well to the Standard CR/NCR system, making it challenging for students to understand. Additionally, CR/NCR courses are often perceived as less rigorous, which is inappropriate for a program requirement.

Consultation: Grad DCC Approval: Jan 13, 202

Resources: None

Proposal Status: Under Review