

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN



## OKANAGAN SENATE SECRETARIAT

**Enrolment Services  
Senate and Curriculum Services**

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**17 December 2009**

**To: Okanagan Senate**

**From: Admissions and Awards Committee**

**Subject: Report on Grade 11 Pilot Project: Substitution of Grade 11 Grades  
for Applicants to Direct Entry Undergraduate Programs (approval)**

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In March 2009, the Okanagan Senate approved a proposal to substitute Grade 11 grades in place of the required Grade 12 grades for the calculation of an admission average for out-of-province secondary school applicants in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Senate also delegated authority to the Admissions and Awards Committee to permit any direct-entry undergraduate program to admit students under the conditions specified in the report entitled *Substitution of Grade 11 Grades for Timely Admission Evaluations*. Approval of the proposal was on a pilot basis for only the 2008/2009 admission cycle for entry to the 2009 Winter Session.

In December 2009, the Admissions and Awards Committee received the enclosed *Report on the Pilot Project Using Grade 11 Grades in Admissions Decisions for the 2009 Admission Cycle* and approved a recommendation from Undergraduate Admissions to extend the pilot for two years (for the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 admission cycles for entry to the 2010 and 2011 Winter Sessions respectively) to allow Enrolment Services to collect additional data on timelines and rate of uptake of offers of admissions. Once this additional data is available, the Committee will consider a recommendation to Senate to normalize this practice.

This same recommendation was approved by the Vancouver Senate in November 2009.

The Admissions and Awards Committee is pleased to recommend the following to Senate:

*Motion: That Senate approve the proposed changes in admission requirement for out-of-province applicants to direct entry undergraduate programs, as specified in the report entitled Substitution of Grade 11 Grades for Timely Admissions Evaluations, effective for entry to the 2010 and 2011 Winter Sessions.*

For the Committee,  
Dr. Sharon McCoubrey  
Chair, Admissions and Awards Committee



## REPORT: PILOT PROJECT USING GRADE 11 GRADES IN ADMISSION DECISIONS FOR THE 2009 ADMISSION CYCLE

### ***Evaluations using Grade 11 grades***

As a result of the pilot project to use Grade 11 grades in admission, 77 out-of-province (Canada) secondary school applicants were evaluated for admission to UBC Okanagan in 2009 using Grade 11 grades as a proxy for missing Grade 12 course grades. This represents approximately 13% of the total number of UBC out-of-province (Canada) secondary school applicants who received an evaluation in 2009. Of the 77 evaluations, 75 were admitted and 2 refused.

### ***Comparing Outcomes***

Of the 75 students admitted using Grade 11 grades, 59 (79%) would have received the same admission decision had we waited for a complete set of Grade 12 grades; however, that decision would have been reached much later in the admission cycle. It is not known if the same decision would have been reached for the remaining 16 students as they did not submit final grade 12 grades. This is not uncommon, particularly among students who do not accept UBC's offer.

### ***Impact on Enrolment***

Of the 75 students admitted on Grade 11 grades, 26 (35%) accepted UBC's offer of admission - consistent with the yield rate of those students admitted earlier on Grade 12 grades.

While it is difficult to accurately assess the impact this policy had on Canadian secondary school student enrolment in 2009, there are positive indicators. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, 35.8% of the out of province secondary school applicant pool had received an initial evaluation, compared to 19.7% on same date previous year. Clearly, applications were processed much faster in 2009.

In addition, the registration rate of admitted out of province secondary school students increased from 32% in 2008 to 35% in 2009 (figures include students admitted to first choice of program only). Historically, out of province students admitted by mid-April have often shown a higher rate of registration than students admitted at a later date. Although we cannot imply causality, it is believed that the earlier offers of admission had a positive effect on yielding admitted students.

### ***Continuing this Practice***

Undergraduate Admissions recommends that this initiative be continued and encourages the committee to consider approving this practice on an ongoing basis.

The benefits of including Grade 11 grades in this manner include:

- earlier academic evaluations for faculties that employ broad based admission practices
- earlier admission decisions for 1/3 of out-of-province Canadian secondary school applicants
- improved yield of out-of-province Canadian secondary school applicants
- spreads evaluation work more evenly over the admission cycle, with a lower overall amount of work

**Table 1: Admission outcomes of using Grade 11 grades as proxies for missing grade 12 grades, UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan, 2009**

Campus	Program	False Admit	True Admit	True Refuse	Unknown	Grand Total
UBC O	BA-O		31	1	6	38
	BASC-O		1			1
	BFA-O			1		1
	BMGT-O		3		2	5
	BSC-O		22		7	29
	BSN-O		1			1
	PHAR-O		1		1	2
UBC V	BA	5	80	1	12	98
	BASC	1	37		33	71
	BCOM		16	21	4	41
	BDSC			1		1
	BHK		4		1	5
	BMUS		1	2		3
	BSAG	1	3			4
	BSC	4	44	1	26	75
	BSCN		4			4
	BSF		1			1
	BSFN		12			12
	BSFS		3			3
Total		11	264	28	92	395

**Table 2: Registration outcomes of using Grade 11 grades as proxies for missing grade 12 grades, UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan, 2009**

Campus	Program	False Admit	True Admit	Unknown	Total
UBC O	BA-O		14		14
	BASC-O		1		1
	BMGT-O		2		2
	BSC-O		6	3	9
UBC V	BA	2	34	2	38
	BASC	1	19	1	21
	BCOM		6		6
	BHK		1		1
	BSAG	1	1		2
	BSC		18		18
	BSF		1		1
	BSFN		4		4
Total		4	107	6	117



MEMORANDUM

**Date:** December 5, 2008

**To:** Senate Admissions Committee

**From:** Dale Griffin  
Senior Associate Dean, Academic  
Sauder School of Business

Janet Giltrow,  
Associate Dean (Students),  
Faculty of Arts

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dale Griffin', written over a light blue circular stamp.

**Subject:** Substitution of Grade 11 Grades for Timely Admission Evaluations

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In order to identify top applicants in a timely fashion and provide them with offers of admission early enough to yield them for our programs, the Sauder School of Business and the Faculty of Arts propose a pilot project to permit the Undergraduate Admissions Office to incorporate a Grade 11 grade into an admission average in place of a required Grade 12 grade for applicants to our Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce programs.

The substitution of Grade 11 for Grade 12 grades would occur only if the following conditions were in place:

- 1) the applicant is a secondary school applicant from outside of British Columbia (a process is already in place to collect verifiable grades for this group in sufficient time to make offers);
- 2) the applicant has all of the required courses either in progress or completed;
- 3) one or more of the approved or required Grade 12 courses does not yet have a grade; and
- 4) a grade in a comparable Grade 11 course (in the same subject area) is available to substitute into the calculation of the admission average.

This practice would allow for earlier calculation of admission averages by staff in the Undergraduate Admissions Office and will help to facilitate deadline-driven admission decisions (getting an offer to an applicant by the date when they need it) for a larger proportion of our applicants, rather than waiting for applicants with Grade 12 courses in progress to submit grades in May or June.

For future tracking and analysis purposes, we propose that a code be used by Undergraduate Admissions to identify admission averages that incorporate one or more Grade 11 grades.

Any students admitted based on an admission average that incorporates a Grade 11 grade would still have to satisfy all published admission requirements to the university and for our programs in order to retain their offer. Final transcripts would continue to be checked for completion of all required courses, graduation, and a final admission average that meets the published university minimum for admission.

It is our hope that this change in the procedure for early admission evaluations will be viewed as a progressive move that aligns with the "Principles of Effective Undergraduate Admission" and that it will be endorsed by the Senate Admissions Committee for implementation as a pilot in the current admission cycle.