

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



## OKANAGAN SENATE SECRETARIAT

**Enrolment Services**  
**Senate and Curriculum Services**

Okanagan Campus  
University Centre · UNC 322  
3333 University Way  
Kelowna, BC · V1V 1V7  
Tel: (250) 807-9619 · Fax: (250) 807-8007  
[www.senate.ubc.ca](http://www.senate.ubc.ca)

**May 19, 2011**

**To: Okanagan Senate**

**From: Admissions and Awards Committee**

**Subject: Report to Senate: Update on Grade 12 Courses Approved for Use in the Calculation of an Admission Average, UBC Okanagan Campus (information)**

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This memorandum is in response to concerns raised at the March 2 Senate meeting around the list of Grade 12 courses approved for use in the calculation of an admission average at the UBC Okanagan campus.

### Summary

Since December 2009 when Senate approved *Criteria for Including Secondary Courses in UBC Admission Averages* (see 'Appendix A'; Note: Appendix A is currently under review) and delegated to the Admissions and Awards Committee "the authority to grant final approval of courses to be used in the calculation of an admission average and published in the Academic Calendar with the proviso that all courses so approved meet the criteria specified by Senate", the Admissions and Awards Committee has approved 26 new courses eligible for inclusion in an admission average bringing the total to 42 courses approved for use in the calculation of an admission average for students applying to the UBC Okanagan campus in 2012 and beyond.

### Process

Beginning in July 2010, a subcommittee of the Admissions and Awards Committee together with representatives from Undergraduate Admissions and the Deputy Registrar, considered new courses reviewed by UBC Okanagan campus faculty against the *Criteria for Including Secondary Courses in UBC Admission Averages* and reported their recommendations to the full Admissions and Awards Committee for approval.

Below is an excerpt from the Academic Calendar. Courses noted in **red bold underlined** have been added since December 2009.

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=2,22,63,0>

### UBC Okanagan campus-approved Grade 12 Courses

#### **Arabic 12<sup>1</sup>**

BC First Nations Studies 12

Biology 12

#### **Calculus 12<sup>1</sup>**

Chemistry 12

#### **Computer Information Systems 12<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Computer Programming 12<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Croatian 12<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Economics 12<sup>1</sup>**

English Literature 12

English 12 or English 12 First Peoples

Français Langue 12 or French 12

Geography 12

Geology 12

German 12

#### **Halq'eméylem 12<sup>1, 2</sup>**

#### **Heiltsuk 12<sup>1, 2</sup>**

History 12

#### **Hul'q'umi'num' 12<sup>1, 2</sup>**

#### **Italian 12<sup>1</sup>**

Japanese 12

#### **Korean 12<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Kwak'wala 12<sup>1, 2</sup>**

#### **Liqwala/Kwakwala 12<sup>1, 2</sup>**

#### **Law 12<sup>1</sup>**

Mandarin 12

#### **nsíylxcən (Okanagan Language) 12<sup>1, 2</sup>**

#### **Nte?kepmxcin 12<sup>1, 2</sup>**

#### **Nuu-chah-nulth 12<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Physics 12

Principles of Mathematics 12 or Pre-Calculus 12

Punjabi 12

**Russian 12<sup>1</sup>**

**Secwepemctsin (Shuswap Language) 12<sup>1,2</sup>**

**Shashishalhem (Sechelt Language) 12<sup>1,2</sup>**

**Sim'algaxhl Nisga'a 12<sup>1,2</sup>**

**Sm'algyax 12<sup>1,2</sup>**

**Social Justice 12<sup>1</sup>**

Spanish 12

**Sustainable Resources 12<sup>1</sup>**

**Tsek'ene 12<sup>1,2</sup>**

**Upper St'at'imcets 12<sup>1,2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Eligible for inclusion in admission averages for students applying to the UBC Okanagan campus in 2012 and beyond.

<sup>2</sup> Technological limitations prevent UBC from appropriately reflecting some languages in the Academic Calendar. We are working to address this for the future.

**[100]** Approved courses offered in French will also be accepted. (Français Langue 12 is not accepted in place of English 12.)

\*\*\*\*excerpt ends

#### Courses Still Under Review

The Admissions and Awards Committee continues to consider new courses reviewed by UBC Okanagan campus faculty against the *Criteria for Including Secondary Courses in UBC Admission Averages*.

Courses recommended for further discussion and analysis:

- Comparative Civilizations 12
- Fine Arts 12 courses (including various Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts courses)

The Committee commits to reporting its approvals annually to the full Senate for its information.

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

## Appendix A

An excerpt from *Criteria for Including Secondary Courses in UBC Admission Averages* approved by the Okanagan Senate in December 2009 and included in full as an appendix to Policy J-51: *Admission Based on Interim Grades for Applicants following Canadian Extra-Provincial Curricula* approved by Senate on March 2, 2011.

### **Secondary school courses included in admission averages must meet all of the following criteria:**

1. Offered by a recognized institution. Recognized institutions, for the purpose of UBC admission, include those that are approved by: a. the Ministry of Education (or equivalent) in the relevant educational jurisdiction. Ministry-approved schools may offer both ministry developed courses and locally developed courses. Locally developed courses that are approved to satisfy graduation requirements may be included in admission averages if they meet the other criteria below, or b. a UBC-recognized accrediting body, or c. the Senate Admissions Committee, or d. a Senate-approved designate (e.g. Dean's in cases of admission from non-accredited institutions on Dean's Discretion).
2. Delivered at the Grade 12 level (or equivalent) or approved for substitution into an admission average by the Senate Admissions Committee.
3. Subject matter is one of the following: a. Academic in Delivery<sup>1</sup>. b. Supportive of broad academic goals and objectives of the university (e.g. the selection of Aboriginal students). c. Relevant to the selection of qualified students by a particular program or faculty. Inclusion of such courses in admission averages is subject to approval of the Senate Admissions Committee on a course-by-course basis.
4. Grades based on prior learning assessment and/or challenge exams are to be *excluded* from admission averages but may be used to satisfy program pre-requisites. For example, language course grades based on a challenge exam will not be included in admission averages; however, the same language courses may be used to satisfy the language requirements for a degree program at the University.

<sup>1</sup>Academic courses are typically those that involve critical or analytical thinking on the part of the student. Examples include mathematics, sciences, and most arts courses (e.g. history, psychology, or economics). Academic courses include some depth and prepare the scholar for further scholarly activities in the same or a related field. Academic courses that may be included in admission averages will often be associated with a particular discipline of study offered by UBC. Non-academic courses are typically those that are based in activities, vocations or applied skills. Non-academic courses also include those that are based in religious or social/political indoctrination (most often seen at religious schools or schools delivering a curriculum that is mandated by a

non-democratic state), or activity courses such as physical education, military training, etc. Non-academic courses may sometimes be described as “terminal courses”, those that do not prepare students for further scholarly activities in a related subject. Finally, non-academic courses may convey a lot of information but lack depth or the requirement for critical or analytical thinking.