A Guide to Curriculum Submissions for UBC Okanagan

Compiled and maintained by the Senate Secretariat with oversight from the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee

Questions: okanagan.curriculum@ubc.ca
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Overview

This document is designed to assist Faculty Curriculum Chairs and those who frequently work with curriculum development. It outlines the steps necessary for curriculum approval at UBC Okanagan. It is maintained by the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee and the Senate Secretariat.

All proposed changes to curricula must be approved by the Okanagan Senate before they can be implemented. This includes new courses, changes to existing programs and/or courses, and the closing of courses and discontinuation of programs. In the case of new degree programs, majors, specializations, and some new minors, approval by the Ministry of Advanced Education is also required.

There are numerous steps that must be taken prior to Senate approval. These are outlined in greater detail throughout this document. The approval process following Faculty approval is depicted below:
Types of Proposals

There are three main types of curriculum proposals. For advice about classifying specific proposals, please consult with your Faculty Curriculum Chair or with the Senate Secretariat at okanagan.curriculum@ubc.ca.

New Programs

New programs include new undergraduate programs and majors; new graduate programs; new degree credentials or significant revisions of a program that warrant credential renaming; and new non-degree programs, such as certificate and diploma programs. In addition to Senate approval, new program proposals often require the approval of the Ministry of Advanced Education.

For more information on new programs, see New Degree Programs and New Non-Degree Programs.

Category 1

Category 1 proposals include new courses and proposals involving significant changes to existing courses or programs.

For more information on Category 1 changes, see Category 1 Proposals.

Category 2

Category 2 proposals concern less substantive changes to existing courses and programs, and the closing of courses (If closing a course impacts other Faculties, this would be elevated to a Category 1 proposal.)

NOTE: Changes submitted as Category 2 may be reconsidered as a Category 1 change at the discretion of the Curriculum Committee.

For more information on Category 2 changes, see Category 2 Proposals.

Important Milestones

The groups involved in the curriculum approval process meet regularly between September and May. Proposals are not approved between June and August. The timing of the process is largely driven by the date of Faculty-level approval and type and the complexity of the proposal. The timing of a submission will impact the timing of its inclusion in the Academic Calendar. The Academic Calendar is released twice annually in March and June. Each calendar release includes only proposals that have received final approval by Senate prior to the release.
New course proposals and program revisions, and substantive revisions to existing courses (including changes to course codes, course numbers, and/or vectors), intended for the upcoming Winter Session (beginning in September) should be submitted in time for the March release. Delays carry implications for proper notice to students, and academic scheduling (including access to academic space).

Generally, Category 1 submissions for a new course take 6 – 8 weeks for the full Senate approval process from submission to the Senate Secretariat till Senate approval. A Category 2 submission averages 4 - 6 weeks in length for final approval. Proposal submission deadlines and corresponding dates for Academic Calendar inclusion are found on the Senate website.

The approval process for new programs, including Ministry of Advanced Education approval, typically takes significantly longer and can vary widely between proposals. Faculties should consider recruitment and admission cycles in determining the timing of submissions. Proponents should contact the Senate Secretariat prior to developing a new program proposal to discuss the timing of the submission and approval timelines.

**New Degree Programs**

New degree programs require the approval of the Okanagan Senate and Board of Governors; please contact the Senate Secretariat for more information about this process. New degree programs will usually require Ministry of Advanced Education approval subsequent to Senate and Board of Governors approval. For advice on whether Ministry approval will be required, please contact the Office of the Provost at ubco.provost@ubc.ca.


Note: The Ministry approval process has changed as of January 2016. This process involves Stage 1 template completion, in addition to submission of the program proposal documentation used internally for UBC’s approval process. The Office of the Provost can provide detailed information about the specific Ministry requirement. New degree program approval process is available on the Ministry’s website.

**University-level Approval**

University-level approval includes Faculty and Office of the Provost approvals, approval by the appropriate Okanagan Senate Committees, approval of the Okanagan Senate, and approval of the Board of Governors.
Faculty-level Approval
Faculties establish their own processes and methods for approval ensuring that they are consistent with the Guidelines for New Program Development and Approval Process. The Okanagan Senate Curriculum and Admissions Committees accept whatever methods of approval are deemed to be appropriate by the proposing Faculty as long as they adhere to these guidelines. However, a schematic diagram providing guidance as to the sequence of steps to take in this process is provided in the New Program Approval.

Graduate programs that are administered by Faculties are proposed by the administering Faculty. For all other graduate programs, the proposing ‘Faculty’ is the College of Graduate Studies.

While the financial and budgetary implications of new programs fall outside of the jurisdiction of Senate, they are an important part of developing any new program. Proponents of new programs must consider whether the proposing Faculty is capable of offering the program with existing resources, or whether it will require additional resources from the University in order to do so.

A Curriculum Budget Impact form, signed by the Dean of the proposing Faculty and by the Provost, must be submitted along with the new program proposal indicating whether the Faculty has sufficient resources to offer the program as proposed.

For assistance with these matters, proponents are advised to consult AVP Finance through the Finance Managers embedded within each Faculty early in the process of preparing their proposal. Proponents should also advise the Office of the Provost that a new program is under development to discuss any risks involved with program development or implementation (fees tuition or otherwise).

New programs often involve new fee or tuition amounts. UBC Board of Governors Policy #71 requires that a formal consultation with students be conducted regarding all changes to tuition and mandatory fees, including the establishment of tuition and fees for new programs. Proponents are advised to contact the Office of the Associate Vice-President Students regarding the student tuition consultation.

Approval of the Office of the Provost
The approval of the Office of the Provost is required for all new programs. The approval of the Provost is indicated by the Provost’s signature on the Curriculum Budget Impact form. Fees must be determined before the Provost approval.

Senate Approval Process
Proponents are strongly encouraged to contact the Senate Secretariat for support and review of documents well in advance of submitting the full program proposal.
Following approval by the Faculty and Office of the Provost, new programs enter the Senate approval process. The bodies involved in the Senate approval process, and the materials reviewed by each body, are outlined in the table below.

The Senate approval process is coordinated by the Senate Secretariat. Following the submission of a new program proposal, the Secretariat will ensure that the documents required for each stage of review are provided to the appropriate body.

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**Senate Curriculum Committee Approval**

The following documents are required for consideration of new program proposals by the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee.

**The Executive Summary**

The Executive Summary is required for all new programs, regardless if a program needs Ministry approval. The length of the Executive Summary will vary and include the following information. Additional information should be included as appendices:
1. An overview of UBC’s history, mission and academic goals (this point is required for the Ministry approval but not for Senate approval)
2. Proposed credential to be awarded, including the level and category of the degree and the specific discipline or field of study
3. Location of where the new degree program will be offered
4. Faculty (and School, if applicable) offering the proposed new degree program
5. Anticipated program start date
6. Anticipated completion time in years
7. A summary of the proposed program, including:
   • Aims, goals and/or objectives of the proposed program;
   • Anticipated contribution of the proposed program to the mandate and strategic plan of the institution;
   • Linkages between the learning outcomes and the curriculum design, and whether a work experience/workplace term is required for degree completion;
   • Potential areas/sectors of employment for graduates and/or opportunities for further study (this point is required for the Ministry approval process but not for Senate approval);
   • Delivery methods;
   • Program strengths;
   • Program credits;
   • Program specializations (for example, ‘majors’);
   • Targeted students;
   • Learning outcomes; and
   • Name, title, phone number and e-mail address of contact person.

Appendices to the Executive Summary
Additional information should be included as appendices. The following appendices to the Executive Summary are strongly recommended:

   • Elaboration on any points from the Executive Summary or any other relevant information the Faculty deems necessary.
   • Briefly describe the resources that will be required, such as budget (including proposed tuition fee), space considerations, and library.

Proposal forms
Academic Calendar statements presented on the standard 2-column admission and curriculum proposal forms outlining program requirements, including:

   • An introduction to the program;
   • Academic advising information;
   • Admission requirements, either as amendments to the undergraduate Admissions or Graduate Admissions section, and/or their own section as context requires;
   • Any academic regulations unique to the program;
- Degree/program requirements, broken down on a yearly basis (tables are preferable if a program is highly structured); and,
- Program contact information.

NOTE: The above list is highly variable depending on how a program integrates with other programs and Faculty regulations already published in the Calendar. It is not necessary to include redundant information.

Courses
Any associated courses and their documentation (see Category 1).

Consultation forms
Consultation with other affected or related units, and units to which the subject matter may be of interest. The onus is upon the Department or Faculty originating a new program to ensure that appropriate consultation is done.

Library consultation form
The Library Consultants list is maintained on the UBC Okanagan Library website – Subject Librarians.

Budgetary Impact of Curriculum Changes form
Signed by the Department Head, the Faculty Dean, and the Provost.

NOTE: Forms (Consultations, Library, Budget) should be completed, and signed, and any potential issues resolved, prior to submission. The Senate Committees will not process incomplete applications.

Senate Admissions and Awards Committee Approval
A new degree program may also need to have its admissions requirements approved by the Okanagan Senate Admissions & Awards Committee before the proposal may be submitted to Senate. The Senate Secretariat can advise as to whether this approval is necessary. Where necessary, use of the 2-column calendar change form is appropriate for this purpose.

For undergraduate degree programs with new admissions requirements, please consult with Undergraduate Admissions, Enrolment Services on the Okanagan campus before the new degree program proposal is to be considered by the Admissions & Awards Committee.

The admission requirements of graduate programs must meet the University minimums as set out in the Academic Calendar at www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=18,285,998,0

Proponents of new program proposals may engage in the Senate Curriculum Committee and Senate Admissions & Awards Committee review processes in parallel. The Senate Secretariat can help to coordinate the approval processes.
**Senate Academic Policy Committee Approval**
New degree programs do not routinely require the approval of the Senate Academic Policy Committee. However, where programs involve partnerships with other institutions, require exemptions from existing policies, or otherwise have significant policy implications, Senate Academic Policy Committee approval may be required.

The administration of new graduate-level programs by Faculties, rather than the College of Graduate Studies, requires approval of the Senate Academic Policy Committee.

**Senate Approval**
Once a new program has been approved by the appropriate Okanagan Senate Committees, it is presented as a report from the Committee(s) to Senate. Proponents of new programs are encouraged to attend the Okanagan Senate meeting at which their program will be presented.

**Board of Governors Approval**
After Senate approval, the Senate Secretariat will forward a copy of the new program proposal to the Board of Governors.

Fee or tuition proposals must be presented to the Board of Governors for approval. These submissions have to be ready at the time the Program proposal will be presented to the Board. To prepare fee or tuition proposals, units must contact the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Students early in the approval process to ensure the student tuition consultation is completed in time to avoid delays in the Board of Governors approval process.

**Ministry of Advanced Education Approval**
Following the approval of the Board of Governors, New Program proposals must be reviewed and approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education before they can be offered by the University.

In order to seek Ministry of Advanced Education Approval, proponents must complete a Stage 1 form. Further information about Ministry approval, please contact the Office of the Provost at ubco.provost@ubc.ca.

The Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic will submit the proposal to the Ministry, including the Stage 1 Review form and the documentation used in the university approval process. No action on behalf of the Faculty is required. The Office of the Provost will advise Senate and the program proponents once the approval has been received.

**NOTE:** No new degree program may be offered prior to the Ministry approval.

The new program may be entered in the Academic Calendar, and student recruitment may commence once the program has been approved by the Senate and the Board of Governors, but only with a clear proviso that the program offering is contingent upon Ministry approval. Final, unconditional offers of admission cannot be made until the program has received Ministry approval.
New Program Proposal Submission

Please ensure that all Calendar changes (additions and deletions) are set out on the standard 2-column admission and/or curriculum proposal form. Forms and examples are located on the Senate website.

Timing of Submission
In order for a new program to be offered in a given September, Senate approval must be granted by the previous February at the latest. Allow for a minimum of eight weeks for the Okanagan Senate Curriculum and Admissions & Awards Committees’ consideration (i.e., Faculty-approved submissions should come from the Faculty to the Senate Secretariat in December at the latest). Proposal submission deadlines are found on the Senate website.

In order for a new program to be included in promotional publications, it is highly recommended that proposals be submitted much earlier than the latest possible timelines described above. It is optimal to submit new program proposals 14 to 16 months prior to the desired first cohort start date.

Promoting a New Program
New program information can be included in informational messaging once Senate approval is obtained; however, it must include a disclaimer that the program is pending approval from the Board of Governors and Ministry of Advanced Education. Informational messaging would include university materials such as the Academic Calendar. New programs should not be promoted by paid advertising in any publications outside the university (such as magazines or websites) until Ministry approval has been granted, which could take up to six months. The Office of the Provost can provide more specific advice, as each program’s promotional plan would vary case by case.

Where to Submit Proposals
Faculty-approved new program proposals may be submitted to the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee (via the Senate Secretariat at okanagan.curriculum@ubc.ca). The Chair of a Faculty Curriculum Committee (or equivalent) submits the proposal after Faculty-level approval has been granted and all required sign-offs have been obtained following the process described in Guidelines for New Program Development and Approval Process. The date of Faculty approval is documented in the submission. The Senate Secretariat will forward the proposal to the appropriate committees. Please note that incomplete submissions will not be forwarded; they will be returned to the Faculty for completion.

How to Submit Proposals
New program proposals are to be submitted in electronic format only. Text-editable files are required for the Executive Summary, the 2-column proposal forms, and course outlines; PDFs are acceptable for the consultations. Electronic signatures on consultation forms are accepted.

The entire submission consists of:
- Executive Summary;
- Curriculum and/or Admissions forms (2-column template);
• Course outlines;
• Curriculum Consultations;
• Admission Consultations;
• Budgetary impact form, and
• Library Consultation form.

New Non-Degree Programs: Senate Policy O-127, O-128 and O-129

University-level approval includes Faculty and Office of the Provost approvals, approval by the appropriate Okanagan Senate Committees, approval of the Okanagan Senate, and approval of the Board of Governors and must adhere to the appropriate Senate policy:

• Senate Policy O-127: Diploma Programs
• Senate Policy O-128: Academic-Credit Certificate Programs
• Senate Policy O-129: Non-Credit Credentials

The Executive Summary
The Executive Summary is required for consideration of new non-degree program proposals by the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee. The length of the Executive Summary will vary and include the following information. Additional information should be included as appendices:

1. An overview of UBC’s history, mission and academic goals (this point is required for the Ministry approval but not for Senate approval)
2. Proposed credential to be awarded, including the level and category of the degree and the specific discipline or field of study
3. Location of where the new degree program will be offered
4. Faculty (and School, if applicable) offering the proposed new degree program
5. Anticipated program start date
6. Anticipated completion time in years
7. A summary of the proposed program, including:
   • Aims, goals and/or objectives of the proposed program;
   • Anticipated contribution of the proposed program to the mandate and strategic plan of the institution;
   • Linkages between the learning outcomes and the curriculum design, and whether a work experience/workplace term is required for degree completion;
   • Potential areas/sectors of employment for graduates and/or opportunities for further study (this point is required for the Ministry approval process but not for Senate approval);
   • Delivery methods;
   • Program strengths;
   • Program credits;
• Program specializations (for example, ‘majors’);
• Targeted students;
• Learning outcomes; and
• Name, title, phone number and e-mail address of contact person.

Appendices to the Executive Summary
Additional information should be included as appendices. The following appendices to the Executive Summary are strongly recommended:

• Elaboration on any points from the Executive Summary or any other relevant information the Faculty deems necessary.
• Briefly describe the resources that will be required, such as budget (including proposed tuition fee), space considerations, and library.

Academic-credit non-degree programs only
Academic Calendar statements presented on the standard 2-column admission and curriculum proposal forms outlining program requirements, including:

• An introduction to the program;
• Academic advising information;
• Admission requirements, either as amendments to the undergraduate Admissions or Graduate Admissions section, and/or their own section as context requires;
• Any academic regulations unique to the program;
• Degree/program requirements, broken down on a yearly basis (tables are preferable if a program is highly structured); and,
• Program contact information.
• Any associated courses and their documentation (see Category 1).
• Consultation forms: Consultation with other affected or related units, and units to which the subject matter may be of interest. The onus is upon the Department or Faculty originating a new program to ensure that appropriate consultation is done.
• Library consultation form: The Library Consultants list is maintained on the UBC Okanagan Library website.
• Budgetary Impact of Curriculum Changes form: Signed by the Department Head, the Faculty Dean, and the Provost.

NOTE: Forms (Consultation, Library, Budget) should be completed, and signed, and any potential issues resolved, prior to submission. The Senate Committees will not process incomplete applications
Category 1 Proposals (other than new programs)

Category 1 proposals include new courses or cases in which an existing course or program is subject to substantive and extensive change. The following cases are considered Category 1 proposals:

- A new course;
- A change to an existing course or program that affects Faculties outside of the proposing Faculty;
- A change to an existing course or program with budgetary implications beyond the Faculty’s available resources;
- Reopening a deleted course;
- Creation of a new subject code;
- Deletion, dissolution, or suspension of a program;
- Deletion of courses where other Faculties are impacted;
- A program name change; or,
- Any case that, upon review, is considered to be Category 1 in the opinion of the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee.

New Courses Approval

A new course requires Senate approval, but does not require the approval of the Ministry of Advanced Education. Senate approval consists of the approval of the Senate Curriculum Committee, and Senate in sequence, following Faculty approval.

A proposal for a new course requires:

- the standard 2-column curriculum proposal form outlining the course description (Academic Calendar entry) for the UBC Calendar. The form includes the following information:
  - Subject code and course number;
  - Credit value;
  - Course title;
  - Course description (Academic Calendar entry);
  - Vectors (if vectors are used by the Faculty);
  - Prerequisites and/or corequisites;
  - A notation in the course description if the course is marked on a pass/fail basis;
  - A rationale providing a brief explanation supporting the change, describing the academic merit for the proposal;
  - The date of Faculty approval; and,
  - Contact information for the proponent.
- A course syllabus using the course syllabus template that outlines the following:
  - The Academic Calendar entry (copied from the 2-column Curriculum Proposal form);
- The course format, describing the course structure / method of presentation of course material (lecture, lab, tutorial, etc.; how many hours per week);
- A clear statement of course overview, content, and objectives describing the purpose of the course (a lengthier course description that ‘unpacks’ the Academic Calendar entry);
- A clear statement of learning outcomes;
- Additional course requirements, such as field trip participation (optional section);
- Evaluation criteria and grading, with a mark breakdown linked to learning outcomes;
- Required readings and videos;

Library consultation
Consultation (admissions and/or curriculum) with units affected by or potentially having an interest in the proposed change. The onus is upon the Department or Faculty to ensure appropriate consultation is done.
- All consultation must be documented in a consultation request form; and
- Recommendations provided in consultation request forms must be acted upon, or the proponent must indicate its rationale for choosing not to act upon the recommendation.

Curriculum Budget Impact Form. Signatures on the Curriculum Budget Impact form are required from the Department Head and Dean. The signature of the Provost is also required when the course cannot be supported with existing Faculty funding (and Chief Librarian if additional library budget is required). Electronic signatures are acceptable. A Budget Impact Form is required if a lab portion in the vector of a course is increasing, even if the proposal is a Category 2.

NOTE: Forms (Consultation Request, Library, Budget) should be completed, and any potential issues resolved, prior to submission. Electronic signatures are acceptable. The Senate Curriculum Committee will not process incomplete applications.

Guidelines for New Courses

Academic Calendar Course Description
The Academic Calendar course descriptions convey the general topic of a course. Ideally, the description provides students with a general idea of the subject and focus of the course without being so specific as to require frequent changes (e.g., with new advances in the field of study or new instructors). Academic Calendar Entry course descriptions are not intended to be summaries of syllabi.

In delivering a course, the University is bound to the topics described in the Academic Calendar. Therefore, any material that may be “variable” in a given year should be set out in the course syllabus, not the formal description.

Initial phrases such as “This course..,” “Students will learn..,” “An examination of..,” etc. are not necessary. The use of “examples include” in the description is discouraged, except when necessary for clarity.
Undergraduate level: If the content of a course is adequately covered by its title, a short description is still required to enable students to understand the course content.

Graduate level: Descriptions are not required at the graduate level.

The software system (CMS) will not allow for an Academic Calendar Entry course description to be over 500 characters (including spaces, but not including vectors or prerequisites). Therefore, it should be as brief as possible while still being informative (aim for 40 words or less). Full sentences are not required.

For additional details and examples, see: Guide to Writing Academic Calendar Entry Course Descriptions

Credit Exclusion Statements
If applicable, the credit exclusion statement is included in the Academic Calendar Entry Course Description. It should be the last sentence, before the vectors.

The standard credit exclusion statement for the Okanagan campus is stated in the positive (since early 2016): “Credit will be granted for only one of COURSE 1 or COURSE 2.” Course 1 should be the originating course.

For three or more courses, the statement should read, “Credit will be granted for only one of COURSE 1, COURSE 2 or COURSE 3”.

Other options where applicable may read, “Credit will be granted for either COURSE 1 and COURSE 2, or COURSE 3” or “Credit will be granted for only one of COURSE 1 and either COURSE 2 or COURSE 3”.

A credit exclusion statement may also be required between a specifically-defined course and a Special Topics course, which should read: “Credit will be granted for only one of COURSE 1 or COURSE 2(A-Z) when the subject matter is of the same nature”. The Special Topics course should be listed with both the course number and letter, such as ‘495g’.

Course Numbering
Course numbers should reflect the academic year level of a course, such that 100 and 200-level courses are lower-level courses, while 300 and 400-level are upper level courses. Graduate-level courses must be assigned course numbers of 500 or greater.

A course number should not be reused until a period of at least the length of the program with which the course is associated plus one year has elapsed since the closure of any previous course bearing that number. For example, most undergraduate course numbers should not be reused within five years of the closure of any course bearing the same number. Proponents of a curriculum change must provide a compelling rationale if they wish to reuse a course number before this period has elapsed.

Proposals should be submitted with a course number after consultation with the Senate Secretariat regarding course code availability.
Please note that in the Curriculum Management System, changing a subject code or number entails closing one version of a course and opening another. This will affect the registration system and any classroom reservations held under the (old) course code.

**Credit Value Determination**

In course listings published in the Academic Calendar, the credit value of a course is shown in parentheses following the course number. In general, one credit represents one hour of instruction or two to three hours of laboratory work per week throughout one term of a Winter Session (September to December or January to May). In the summer terms, which represent half of a Winter session term, one credit would represent approximately two instruction hours per week.

For non-lecture, non-laboratory learning activities (e.g., problem-based learning, community service learning, graduating essays, seminars, student-directed research) the determinants of a course’s credit value will vary with the department. For all new courses incorporating non-lecture, non-laboratory learning activities, a rationale for the proposed credit value should be included in the course proposal.

Credit value should be expressed as either a fixed value, or a variable value. For a variable credit value, a slash [/] indicates an option and a hyphen [-] indicates a range. For variable credit courses, please specify a “D” after the variable credit notation if the credit value is to be set by the unit, or a “C” if it can be selected by the student in consultation with the unit.

Assigning a course zero (0) credits is used for courses that relate to theses and dissertations, practica, and exchange terms. The use of the zero (0) credit option for other types of activities is not encouraged by the Senate Curriculum Committee.

**Vectors**

Some Faculties describe the distribution of their contact hours across learning activities through the use of a vector. The number of hours assigned each week to lectures or primary activity (first digit), and to laboratories or secondary activity (second digit) are shown in square brackets at the end of a course description. Where a third digit appears it refers to periods where discussions, tutorials, or assigned problems are done (tertiary activity). An asterisk (*) indicates alternate weeks. The first set of digits refers to the first term (September to December) and the second set following a semi-colon refers to the second term (January to May); when only one set is given it means either term.

Courses delivered partially or fully online should maintain the same vector system. Instead, students should be made aware of the online component either in the Academic Calendar entry Course Description and/or in the section notes of the registration system, SIS. For specific details, please see the Academic Calendar

www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/courses.cfm?go=intro

E.g.:  [3-0-1*] would mean the course had a weekly total of 3 hours of lectures, no laboratories, and a 1 hour tutorial per two-week period.
[3-0-1; 3-0-1] would mean that the course continues over two terms with 3 hours of lectures and a 1 hour tutorial weekly.

Typically there is a 1:1 ratio between the primary activity and the credit value; a 2:1 or 3:1 ratio between the secondary activity and the credit value; and credit value is seldom assigned to the tertiary activity. In the example provided above, the course would likely have a credit value of 3.

**Vectors for Graduate Courses**

It is at the discretion of the Graduate program should they choose to use vectors for improved transparency of expected course hours and workload.

**Subject Code Assignment/Creation**

The creation of a new subject code is considered a Category 1 change. An academic rationale supporting the choice of the 2-, 3-, or 4-letter code must be included. There is no need for a library or budgetary sign-off for the subject code creation.

Consultation with Senate Secretariat (okanagan.curriculum@ubc.ca) at an early stage is required. If there is overlap with an existing subject code used on the Vancouver campus or with a historic subject code, consultation with the affected units is required.

**Prerequisites and Corequisites**

Prerequisites and corequisites should be noted in the Academic Calendar entry course description.

**A prerequisite** is a course that the student must have completed prior to registering for the selected course.

**A corequisite** is a course that the student must take prior to or concurrently with the selected course.

Prerequisites and corequisites may be waived for individual students at the discretion of the Administrative Unit. General prerequisites that apply to all courses with a particular subject code are frequently given just before the Calendar listing for that subject code.

In all cases where prerequisites are indicated, the assumption is that an equivalent course or the permission of the Administrative Unit is also acceptable; an explicit statement to that effect should not be included in the prerequisite or corequisite statement.

**Recommended Courses**

Courses recommended should appear in the course description and not in the prerequisite and/or corequisite statement.

**Restrictions**

Courses may be restricted to particular student groups. This should not be indicated (incorrectly) as a prerequisite but as a restriction. A sentence should be added to the Academic Calendar entry stating, “Restricted to students in the X program”. Enrolment Services will enter a restriction code into the registration system to enforce the restriction.
**Equivalency**
When two differently coded courses are taught with the same content, they are equivalent. In this instance, the Faculties prefer to have different subject codes and course numbers. Equivalent courses are indicated on the course proposal. A credit exclusion statement should also be included to indicate students may not receive credit for both in the event students may not fully understand the implications of equivalent courses. However, usage of the credit exclusion statement only does not imply courses are equivalent; it implies the courses are similar enough in nature to not allow credit for both courses.

**Versions**
Some types of courses such as directed studies, topics, or variable credit courses are scheduled as different versions. Versions (represented by a detail code: suffixed letters A-Z after a course number such as BIOL 448A, BIOL 448B, etc.) are not new courses; rather, they represent different foci or ways of approaching a course’s content. A course version has no standing on its own.

A version of a course cannot:
- have a course description that is different from other versions;
- be a prerequisite that excludes other versions;
- have prerequisites that differ from other versions; or,
- be used to satisfy degree requirements of any of the other versions of the course that do not satisfy the same degree requirements.

Only the course itself can have these attributes and all versions of a course are deemed to be the same in these respects (except for where there are differences in credit value).

All courses with titles including “[Special] Topics in...”, “Readings in...”, “Issues in...” or “[Directed] Studies in...” are assumed to be able to have versions, as are all courses with variable credits.

See [Course Schedule (student course registration system)](https://example.com) for information on how to add notes to the course registration system that will provide these version details to students.

**Piloting Courses**
A version of a Topics course can be used to ‘pilot’ a potential new course. If a unit uses a Topics course for three times consecutively about the same topic, it would normally be brought forward for Senate approval.

**Cross-listing**
A cross-listed course is offered jointly by two or more teaching units (such as different Faculties or departments). Regardless of the offering Faculty or discipline identified by the course prefix of a cross-listed course, every offered section of a cross-listed course is substantially the same as every other and all are therefore recognized as instances of the “same” course. They are considered equivalents and credit will not be granted for the various listings of the equivalent course.
If the cross-listed course is offered at both an undergraduate and graduate level, the outcomes at either level should be commensurate to the expectations of that level and course syllabi should explicitly show this (e.g., the graduate listing has extra assignments, readings, and/or a different grading scheme). 

**Other Category 1 Proposals (substantive changes)**

Examples of Category 1 proposals other than new courses include:

- A deletion or change to an existing course or program that affects Faculties outside of the proposing Faculty;
- A change to an existing course or program that engenders budgetary implications beyond the available resources of the proposing Faculty;
- Reinstating a deleted course;
- Creation of a new subject code;
- Deletion, dissolution, or suspension of a program;
- Changing a program name; or,
- Any case that, upon review, is considered to be Category 1 in the opinion of the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee.

Generally, only material relevant to the change is required in the proposal. For instance:

- To change a course used by other faculties, consultation with those faculties is required.
- To substantively change a course requires a new syllabus outlining the added/changed material, a new library consultation (if the reading list has changed), and if needed, a new budget sign-off. The proponent should email the Senate Secretariat (to be distributed to the Curriculum Committee) as to why a new budget sign-off is not being submitted.
- The creation of a new subject code requires a consultation with Senate Secretariat (okanagan.curriculum@ubc.ca), but does not require a library consultation or budget sign-off.
- The deletion, dissolution, or suspension of a course or program, or a program name change, requires consultation with units, licensing bodies, or professional associations, and any other group that may be affected, but does not require a library consultation or budget sign-off. The effective date for program deletion should not be until after all students registered in the program have had a reasonable time in which to complete the program requirements or accommodate the change. When considering shutting down a program, consultation with current students is a prudent step to consider.
The ‘effective date’ field on the Curriculum Proposal form for course deletions should be the last session the course is run / the last session it should appear in the Calendar. The course is then officially deleted at the end of that session noted in the ‘effective date’ field.

**Curriculum Renewal**

Significant curriculum renewal projects, such as changes to the degree requirements for each year of a program or rearrangement of a substantial portion of a program’s degree requirements among year levels, can be as extensive as new program proposals and can require Ministry approval.

Proponents should contact Senate & Curriculum Services at the outset of any major curriculum renewal projects for advice about the approval process and required documents. Proponents should contact the Office of the for advice about Ministry approval requirements.

The Academic Calendar policy on Program Requirements must be taken into account when planning significant curriculum renewal projects. The policy states that:

> “Unless a student takes an extraordinary number of years to complete prescribed studies, the student is usually given the option of meeting requirements in effect when first enrolled or of meeting revised requirements subsequently approved by Senate.”

Therefore, when implementing a new version of a program proponents must consider how to phase out the previous version of the program in a way that ensures that students retain the option of completing program requirements as defined at the time they enrolled. In particular, consideration should be given to students who, for whatever reason, fall behind a reasonable pace for completing the program requirements as stated in the Calendar year in which they first enrolled. How will students be accommodated in order to meet exit requirements if previous courses are no longer available?

**Rationale of Curriculum Change**

Curriculum proposals will be evaluated by the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee on the basis of academic content and merit. Proposals should be written for an audience that may not have much background regarding the proposal’s topic and to that end, discipline-specific abbreviations or slang should be avoided.

The following points should be covered in all proposals:

- Objectives of the course or program change.
- Academic merit.
- The nature of the proposed change and its relationship to the rest of the curriculum of the department or Faculty.
- The need for the proposed change.

Faculties must consider faculty suitability and readiness to offer the proposed course (i.e., professional background, experience, and scholarly interest and attainments). Additionally,
Faculties should consider the sustainability of a course, including the ability to offer the course in the long-term.

**Curriculum Forms**

Proponents of curriculum change should download the appropriate forms from the Senate website: [www.senate.ubc.ca/okanagan/curriculum/forms](http://www.senate.ubc.ca/okanagan/curriculum/forms).

The Curriculum Proposal Form itself may be done in landscape format if this proves helpful to the proponent.

The Senate Curriculum Committee recommends that each Faculty have a single person designated to consolidate departmental submissions into a Faculty Curriculum Report. Normally it is expected that this is the Faculty Curriculum Chair. For current Curriculum-related contacts per Faculty, see the contact list at: [www.senate.ubc.ca/okanagan/curriculum/forms](http://www.senate.ubc.ca/okanagan/curriculum/forms).

**Change to a Course or Program**

Most of the instructions you will need to fill out a (2-column) Curriculum Proposal form “New/Change to Course/Program” appear on the form itself. Examples of how to properly format a Calendar change using this form can be found on the [Senate website](http://www.senate.ubc.ca/okanagan/curriculum/forms). A single form is used for all types of curriculum changes.

**Consultation Request Form**

This form is for consulting colleagues, departments, and/or Faculties who may be affected by, or interested in, the proposed curriculum changes.

**Library Consultation Form**

This form is used to indicate the adequacy of Library needs. The Library Consultants list is maintained on the UBC Okanagan Library website: [https://library.ok.ubc.ca/about/help-contact/subject-librarians/](https://library.ok.ubc.ca/about/help-contact/subject-librarians/)

The approval of the Chief Librarian must be indicated on the Curriculum Budget Impact form if the course cannot be supported with existing Library resources.

**Curriculum Budget Impact Form**

The adequacy of the available resources, financial or otherwise, to permit the proposal to be implemented must be indicated on the Curriculum Budget Impact form. All Curriculum Budget Impact forms must be signed by the Department Head (or equivalent) and the Dean of the proposing unit, indicating the Faculty assumes they can cover the risks. The signature of the Provost is also required for all new program proposals and significant curriculum changes, indicating the Faculty assumptions have been reviewed by the Provost.

If the Library Consultation form indicates that additional Library resources are required to support the proposal, then the signature of the Chief Librarian must be obtained on the Curriculum Budget Impact Course / Program form.

The above forms are located on the [Senate website](http://www.senate.ubc.ca/okanagan/curriculum/forms).
How to Submit a Category 1 Proposal other than New Program Proposals

Faculty-level Approval
Before Category 1 proposals are forwarded to the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee, they must be approved by the proposing Faculty. The Faculty may approve the proposal using appropriate Faculty-approved procedures (e.g., a full Faculty meeting, a Faculty curriculum committee, a program committee). Proposals without Faculty approval will not be considered by the Senate Curriculum Committee.

Courses that are part of graduate programs that are administered by Faculties are proposed by the administering Faculty. For courses in all other graduate programs, the proposing Faculty is the College of Graduate Studies.

Effective Session and Year
All curriculum proposals must include an effective session and year indicating the time at which the change will come into effect. The UBC academic year is divided into two sessions, Winter, which runs from September through April, and Summer, which runs from May through August. Curriculum changes cannot be effective for a particular term within a session.

The Effective Year is always listed as the year in which the session (Winter or Summer) began. Accordingly, the 2017 Winter session runs from September 2017 until April 2018. The effective year of any change that is to take place during this period is “2017.” The effective year should never be listed as “2017/18” or “2018/19”. The effective session for curriculum proposals other than new programs should be a subsequent (not current) session (Winter or Summer).

When closing a course or program, the effective session should be the final session the course or program will be offered. Changes submitted with the current session as the effective session will be considered only in cases in which the rationale for the urgent change is compelling, as current-session changes can affect registered students.

Timing of the Submission
Although the Calendar is updated two times annually, proposals can be submitted throughout the year for better management of committee workloads.

Senate-approved new and changed courses and programs are published in the online Calendar two times yearly, in March and June. The online Calendar is the official University Academic Calendar. There is no print version. See Academic Calendar for more information on the Calendar proofing and publication process.

Where to Submit Proposals
Faculty-approved new program proposals may be submitted to the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee (via the Senate Secretariat at okanagan.curriculum@ubc.ca). The Chair of a Faculty Curriculum Committee (or equivalent) submits the proposal after Faculty-level approval has been granted and all required sign-offs have been obtained. The date of Faculty approval is documented in the submission. After review, the Senate Secretariat will forward the proposal
to the appropriate committees. Please note that incomplete submissions will not be forwarded; they will be returned to the Faculty for completion.

**How to Submit Proposals**

New program proposals are to be submitted in electronic format only. Text-editable files are required for the Executive Summary, the 2-column proposal forms, and course outlines; PDFs are acceptable for the consultations. Electronic signatures on consultation forms are accepted.

The entire submission for new or substantially changes courses consists of:

- Curriculum and/or Admissions forms (2-column template);
- Course outlines;
- Curriculum Consultations;
- Admission Consultations;
- Budgetary impact form,
- Library Consultation form; and
- Any supporting documents that assists the Committee to understand the proposed changes.

**Category 2 Proposals**

Category 2 proposals concern less substantive changes to existing courses and programs than the changes described in Section E: Category 1 above. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

Changes in a course title or description to clarify or reflect updates in the field, or changes to a course’s credit value (where any of these changes imply a significant change in course content, the proposal is viewed as a Category 1 proposal);

Changes to pre/corequisites or vectors (unless the changes narrow or restrict access to other Faculties or departments using the course);

Change from a 6-credit course to two 3-credit courses without change in course content (submission of the 6-credit course syllabus and both new 3-credit course syllabi is requested in such cases);

Changes to grading method (Pass/Fail to Percentage or vice versa);

Changes to subject heading; or,

The deletion of courses. **However, these proposals may require a consultation to show that the closure does not affect other programs if the course has been in active use toward other programs.**

**NOTE:**

- Changes in the instructor or in the delivery method generally do not require Senate approval unless there is a concurrent change in the course’s stated learning outcomes.
• Changes submitted as Category 2 may be reconsidered as a Category 1 change at the discretion of the Senate Curriculum Committee.

Category 2 Proposal Requirements

Category 2 changes, by virtue of their having no increased resource implications outside of a given Faculty, do not require consultations, library, or budget approval. As such, the standard 2-column Curriculum Proposal form “New/Change to Course/Program”) is all that is required unless the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee requests further documentation (e.g., the syllabus of 6-cr and both 3-cr versions of a course when a Category 2 change is requesting a two-term course be split into two one-term courses). Please refer to the guidelines under the Guidelines for New Courses section for more detail on course descriptions, course numbering, credit value determination, subject code assignment, prerequisites and corequisites, versions, and cross-listing.

Changes to Course Titles

Changes to course titles are considered Category 2 changes only where the course content has not undergone significant change. A rationale should be provided in the appropriate box near the top of the 2-column form to explain why the title is being changed.

Inactive Courses

Each Faculty Curriculum Committee should ensure that genuinely inactive courses that have not been offered for four or more years are removed from the Calendar through the submission of a Category 2 proposal to close these courses.

Inactive courses that have been closed are removed from the Calendar, but are maintained in the Senate records. They may be reopened through the submission of a Category 1 proposal.

A course number should have been inactive for a minimum of ten years before it may be reused for a new course.

How to submit a Category 2 Proposal

Please ensure that all Calendar changes (additions and deletions) are set out on the standard 2-column Curriculum Proposal form New/Change to Course/Program. Examples of how to properly format a Calendar change using this form can be found in Appendix E: Examples of UBC Curriculum Proposal Form. All forms and proposal form examples are available for download at: www.senate.ubc.ca/okanagan/curriculum/forms
Faculty-level Approval
Before Category 2 proposals are forwarded to the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee, they must be approved by the proposing Faculty. The Faculty may approve the proposal using whatever procedures it considers appropriate (e.g., a full Faculty meeting, a Faculty curriculum committee, a program committee). Proposals without Faculty approval will not be considered by the Senate Curriculum Committee.

Changes to graduate-level courses or programs that are administered by Faculties are proposed by the administering Faculty. For all other graduate programs, the proposing Faculty becomes the College of Graduate Studies.

Consultation
Consultations for Category 2 proposals are required in the following instances:
  • If a course is for graduate students, the College of Graduate Studies must be consulted.
  • If the deletion of a course, or a revised prerequisite, may affect other programs.

Timing of the Submission
The effective session for curriculum proposals should be a subsequent (not current) session (Winter or Summer). Changes submitted with the current session (or mid-session Term 2) as the effective session will only be considered in cases where the rationale for the urgent change is particularly compelling, as current session changes can affect registered students.

Although the Calendar is updated two times annually (March and June), proposals can be submitted throughout the year for better management of committee workloads.

Senate-approved new and changed courses and programs are published in the online Calendar two times yearly, in March and June. The online Calendar is the official University Academic Calendar. There is no print version. See Academic Calendar for more information on the Calendar proofing and publication process.

Where to Submit Proposals
Faculty-approved new program proposals may be submitted to the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee (via the Senate Secretariat at okanagan.curriculum@ubc.ca). The Chair of a Faculty Curriculum Committee (or equivalent) submits the proposal after Faculty-level approval has been granted and all required sign-offs have been obtained. The date of Faculty approval is documented in the submission. After review, the Senate Secretariat will forward the proposal to the appropriate committees. Please note that incomplete submissions will not be forwarded; they will be returned to the Faculty for completion.

How to Submit Proposals
Category 2 proposals are to be submitted in electronic format only. Text-editable files are required for the 2-column proposal forms, and course outlines (as required); PDFs are acceptable for the consultations. Electronic signatures on consultation forms are accepted.
Program Nomenclature

Areas of Specialization Within Degree Programs

Specializations are mechanisms to show discrete and defined groups of courses. The terms honours, major, minor, concentration, option, specialization, and sub-specialization may be displayed on a student’s transcript. However, there are other terms in use that may not be displayed on a student’s transcript.

The terms outlined above are often used synonymously. For instance, a major in the Faculty of Arts is the same as a concentration at the Faculty of Management. The term that is employed will depend upon the level of attainment that the term is meant to signify as well as the traditions/practices of the department.

Wherever possible, proposed areas of specialization should be identified using terms already in use in the Calendar, and should be consistent with terminology used within the same Faculty or Department. Proposals to use different terminology should clearly identify why existing terms are insufficient and will typically require the approval of the Senate Academic Policy committee, in addition to the Senate Curriculum Committee.

Joint Degrees, Dual Degrees, and Programs offered in Partnership with other Institutions

Most academic programs are offered by one Faculty at one institution. However, new and creative arrangements are being proposed with increasing frequency between Faculties, and between different institutions. In such cases, more complicated approval mechanisms and processes are generally required. The two most common arrangements are joint degrees and dual degrees.

Joint Degrees
Joint degrees are commonly understood to mean programs that are offered jointly by two Faculties or institutions, where the student would receive one parchment upon the completion of the program. Submission of a proposal for a joint degree would follow the same course as a New Programs and Majors or Category 1 proposal, depending on the type of joint degree. Ministry approval of the new joint program may be required, depending upon the nature of the proposal. Coordination of submissions and approvals with participating Faculties and/or institutions is required (for items such as amendments or program changes). The Senate Secretariat should be consulted early to determine the procedure.

Dual Degrees
Dual degree programs refer to two degrees being taken concurrently as part of a combined course of study. The result of such an activity is two separate credentials representing two distinct programs. The benefits of such a program generally include efficiencies in meeting program requirements, program administration, and scheduling. If the two degrees in question
are already offered by UBC, Ministerial approval is not required. However, the dual program needs approval of the Okanagan Senate as a Category 1 curriculum proposal, including all other necessary approvals and forms outlined in Section E: Category 1 Proposals.

Submission and approval of all necessary forms should be coordinated between the participating faculties.

If the two degrees in question are in different faculties, each Faculty still formally offers its own degree; however, any amendments to a participating degree program should be sent to the other Faculty for consultation. If the other Faculty does not find the change acceptable, it may elect to discontinue the dual program with the consent of the Okanagan Senate.

Proposals for dual degrees internal to UBC should specify:

- Arrangements for admission to the dual degree program as differentiated from its component degrees. (This should include information on how a student may be admitted to the dual program either de novo or from one of the two component degrees if applicable);
- Advising and program administration information; and,
- Any differences in program requirements or regulations for the dual program versus the two component degrees taken separately. Note that the program requirements for both degrees should be respected (i.e., if a requirement is omitted from one degree, it must be accounted for by similar content in the other).

NOTE: In some instances, this type of program has been referred to as a “combined” degree; however, this language is discouraged for reasons of consistency.

Programs offered in partnership with Other Institutions

Programs may be offered in partnership with other institutions, whether this be as a dual degree, a joint degree, or through some other arrangement.

These programs require additional steps for approval including the following:

- Coordination of approvals with the other institution is required (for items such as amendments or program changes);
- As per the Senate Policy on the Evaluation of Joint Degree Proposals, the proposal is also considered by the Okanagan Senate Academic Policy Committee prior to consideration by Senate; and,
- The terms of affiliation with the other institution must be reviewed by the Office of the University Counsel before being approved by the Council of Senates and the Board of Governors. The Council of Senates Policy C-2: Affiliations with Other Institutions of Learning www.senate.ubc.ca/council/policies governs UBC affiliations with other institutions.

Except as explicitly set out in the program proposal or the affiliation agreement, all UBC academic regulations and requirements - and all University policies - apply to the joint program and students therein.
Depending on the nature of the agreement with the other institution(s), the University may not be free to discontinue the program without a suitable notice period.

**Reorganization of Academic Units**

The reorganization of academic units (e.g., unit mergers, departmental name changes) do not come through the Curriculum Committee for Senate Approval. Rather, these requests flow from the Office of the Provost. In some cases, consideration by the Okanagan Senate Academic Policy Committee is necessary. However, the Curriculum approval process is required for the concomitant Calendar updates.

If a departmental name change does not engender program or course changes, a Category 2 change form should be completed, laying out the unit’s Calendar entry in the 2 column format, identifying all instances where the new departmental name should appear, and listing the “type of action” as: Replace all instances of the departmental name in the Calendar with the new departmental name.

If a unit merger or other reorganization engenders substantial changes to a program, a Category 1 submission will be required see Section E: Category 1 Proposals.

The creation of a new subject code is a Category 1 change (see Subject Code Assignment/Creation).

**Noteworthy Implications When Changing a Course & Course Scheduling**

**Closing Courses and Registration Woes**

There is an important consideration to note when any changes are made to a course, namely, students may no longer be able to register for that course. After Senate approval of the course change, whether this be a prerequisite change, an updated Academic Calendar entry course description, or a subject code change, the old course is officially “closed” in the system. A new course is then “opened” with the updated, approved information. “Closing” a course may throw out any academic scheduling for that course, such as classroom reservations and course registration.

Faculty scheduling designates should inform the Academic Course Scheduling unit of any scheduled courses that will be “closed” in order to prevent registration and room booking issues.
**Academic Scheduling**

Senate-approved course creation or closing does not initiate any action by the Academic Course Scheduling unit in Enrolment Services. Requests to schedule a course (including newly approved courses) are to be made to the appropriate Dean/Unit Head or designate. The Dean/Unit Head or designate is responsible for communicating request to the Academic Course Scheduling unit via academic.scheduling@ubc.ca.

New course proposals and program revisions, and substantive revisions to existing courses (including changes to course codes, course numbers, and/or vectors), intended for the upcoming Winter Session (beginning in September) should be submitted in time for the March release. Delays carry implications for proper notice to students (including when the course appears in the course schedule), and academic scheduling (including access to academic space).

**Adding a Newly Approved Course to the Course Schedule**

The following information is required in order for the Academic Course Scheduling unit to complete a course scheduling request.

- Subject (e.g., BIOL)
- Course (e.g., 101)
- Credit value (e.g., 3 credits)
- Instructor (e.g., Bob Smith)
- Session (e.g., Summer, Winter)
- Term 1, Term 2, Term All as outlined in the Calendar
- Days and times as outlined in the meeting pattern
- Room requirements (e.g., Computer lab)
- Total # seats released (# students allowed to register for course)
- Meeting type (e.g., Lecture, Lab, Tutorial)

**Changes to the UBC Parchment**

Changes to the UBC Parchment must be approved by the Okanagan Senate, via the Senate Curriculum Committee as per their Term of Reference #3: “Responsible for recommending the following to Senate […] Materials presented on credentials (including degree, diploma, and certificate parchments, and students’ transcripts of academic record).”

**Parchment Format**

The UBC Parchment has 4 available lines:

- Line 1 is used for the credential (e.g., “Bachelor of Science”);
- Line 2 is used for the field of study (e.g. “Major in Physics”);
- Line 3 is used for either co-operative education programs (e.g. “Co-operative Education Program”) or standing (e.g. “with Distinction”); and,
- Line 4 is used for co-operative education programs where standing is indicated in Line 3.

Line 1 is mandatory – all UBC Parchments must include the credential. Lines 2, 3, and 4 are optional, and units wishing to add, delete, or change one or both of these lines on their parchments must submit a proposal to the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee requesting the change.

Units are strongly encouraged to consult with Enrolment Services in order to discuss options related to information presentation on the UBC Parchment.

**Proposal**

Proposals to add or delete material presented on degree and diploma parchments should include the following sections.

**Background and Rationale**
A description of the unit’s motivation for the change. The date of Faculty approval must be included.

**Proposed Change**
A description of the change to the UBC Parchment, indicating what should appear on Lines 2, 3, and 4.

**Explanation**
A detailed explanation of the proposed changes to Lines 2 and/or 3, including examples.

**Faculty-level Approval**
Before Change to Degree and Diploma Parchments proposals may be forwarded to the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee, they must be approved by the proposing Faculty. The Faculty may approve the proposal using whatever procedures it considers acceptable (e.g., a full Faculty meeting, a Faculty curriculum committee, a program committee). Proposals without Faculty approval will not be considered.

Graduate programs that are administered by Faculties are proposed by the administering Faculty. For all other graduate programs, the proposing ‘Faculty’ becomes the College of Graduate Studies.

**Consultation**
Consultations for changes to the parchment should be sent to departments, and/or Faculties who may be affected by, or interested in, the proposed change.
Timing of the Submission
In order for the changed parchment to be issued at May Congregation ceremonies, the proposed changes must be approved by the Okanagan Senate no later than the preceding February.

Where to Submit Proposals
Proposals may be submitted to the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee (via the Senate Secretariat at okanagan.curriculum@ubc.ca) only by the chair of a Faculty/College curriculum committee (or equivalent) after Faculty-level approval has been granted, or in their absence, the Dean of the proposing Faculty.

How to Submit Proposals
Parchment proposals are to be submitted in electronic format only. Text-editable files are required.

Academic Calendar

Proofreading
The Senate Secretariat facilitates proofreading of the Academic Calendar once per year. The proofreading cycle starts in July and ends in January. Faculties are prompted in three phases to proofread their sections of the Calendar, including Academic Staff Lists and approved curriculum changes.

Calendar Releases
The Okanagan Academic Calendar is released two times per year, in late-February/early-March and late-May/early-June. The late-February/early-March release is the first release for the following academic year.

Submitting Calendar Changes
Curriculum and admission changes must be submitted through the appropriate approval process. Calendar releases are timed with Senate meetings to ensure that all approved material is included in the following release.

Proposals needing Ministry of Advanced Education review (e.g., new programs) are generally not entered in the Calendar prior to receipt of the Ministry’s approval. See the Senate Secretariat for specific details and guidance.

Please refer to Section C: New Degree Programs for more information on timing of proposal submissions.

Non-curricular Calendar changes (e.g., changes to Academic Staff Lists) may be submitted at any time to the Calendar Editor by contacting calendar.okanagan@ubc.ca.
The changes will appear in the official online Calendar in the following release, unless submitted in the week prior to a Calendar release. Many changes can be viewed in the Draft Calendar as soon as they are entered (please contact calendar.okanagan@ubc.ca for more information on accessing the Draft Calendar).
Appendix A: Guidelines for New Program Development and Approval Process

1. An Academic Unit starts to develop a new program (or a major change to an existing program). See Section C: New Degree Programs.

2. The Academic Unit informs its Faculty Dean’s Office of their intent and provides preliminary materials to the Dean. The Dean’s Office informs the Office of the Provost and, if a Graduate program, the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The Office of the Senate should also be advised of the initiative.

3. If the program is related to the establishment of a new academic unit - (e.g., School), the Office of the Provost’s Associate Provost will arrange for a consultation with the Deans’ Council, as required.

4. The Academic Unit develops the proposal. In doing so, it should consult early with units that are expected to contribute to, support, or be impacted by the new program (e.g., other departments/Faculties, the Library, etc.). Academic Units are encouraged to seek support from the Centre of Teaching and Learning (www.ctl.ok.ubc.ca), the Finance Managers embedded in the Faculties in the development of the program and its budget and the Office of the Senate. For programs involving international collaboration/partnerships, support is also available through the Office of the Provost.

5. The proposal is presented to the relevant Academic Unit committees for review and approvals (Curriculum Committee or their equivalents).

6. The proposal is presented for Academic Unit approval.

7. The Academic Unit’s proposal is submitted to the Dean’s Office for review. This review includes formal consultation with the embedded Finance Managers and Office of the Provost which leads to development of the program budget.

8. The proposal, reflecting feedback obtained in step #7, inclusive of Senate-required program and course information and budget and fee information, is prepared for approval by Faculty committees.

9. Ministry Executive Summary is drafted and added to the package.

10. The proposal, including the Executive Summary, is presented to relevant Faculty Committees for Approvals (Curriculum Committee or their equivalents).

11. Formal consultations are conducted with:

   a. Other academic units, including the College of Graduate Studies for graduate programs, as necessary.

   b. The Library, for resources (see https://library.ok.ubc.ca/about/help-contact/subject-librarians/ for a list of Library Consultants).

   c. Enrolment Services via the Senate Secretariat (okanagan.curriculum@ubc.ca), for form, format, and completeness.
d. Office of the Provost: the proposal must include the Finance Manager-reviewed program budget in this submission to obtain budgetary approval from the Provost.

12. A final Faculty proposal is prepared taking into consideration any feedback received under step #11. This proposal now also includes:
   a. The Ministry-required Stage 1 form
   b. Signed consultations/approvals, from those groups listed in step #11.

13. The proposal is presented for Faculty approval (note that any amendments made at the Faculty stage need to be communicated to relevant consultants prior to Senate Curriculum Committee consideration).

14. The proposal is submitted to the Senate Curriculum Committee (via the Senate Secretariat okanagan.curriculum@ubc.ca) with a copy to the Office of the Provost’s Associate Provost.

15. Upon review, the proposal is forwarded by the Senate Secretariat to the appropriate committees (Curriculum and Admissions & Awards Committees, and others as appropriate).

16. The proposal is submitted as a joint proposal by the Senate Curriculum Committee together with the Senate Admissions & Awards Committee for Senate consideration.

17. The Senate Secretariat forwards the Senate-approved proposal to the Board of Governors.

18. The Office of the Provost prepares the submission of tuition/fee approval request to Board of Governors.

19. The Office of the Provost forwards the proposal for Ministry approval.

20. After Ministerial consent is granted, the Office of the Provost informs the proposing Faculty and academic Unit.

NOTE: **No new degree program may be offered prior to the Ministry approval.**

The new program may be entered in the Academic Calendar, and student recruitment may commence once the program has been approved by the Senate and the Board of Governors, but only with a clear proviso that the program offering is contingent upon Ministry approval. Final, unconditional offers of admission cannot be made until the program has received Ministry approval.
Appendix B: New Program Approval

New Program Approval—Faculty Approval Checklist

Phase 1 - Generating Ideas, Building Support
- Describe idea for a new program; create a preliminary proposal
- Consult colleagues - is the idea worthwhile and feasible?
- Are there similar programs in BC, Canada, or elsewhere?
- When can you reasonably expect to begin to offer the program?

Before moving ahead, you should have the tacit approval of your Unit Head (or equivalent) and Dean.

Now would be a good time to contact the Office of the Provost to inform them of the program idea and the Senate Secretariat to learn more about the necessary steps and anticipated timelines for approval.

Phase 2 - Creating your Initial Program Proposal
- Consult the Curriculum Guidelines
- Are there examples in your Faculty that you can draw from?
- Consider consulting the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) for advice on curriculum design and technology support
- Begin consulting with related Units and Faculties

Before moving ahead, you should have a reasonably complete proposal, with any Calendar change forms prepared.

At this point, the Office of the Provost should be aware of your plans, and the budget should be in development.

Phase 3 - Unit Approval
The proposal receives iterative review and approval by the following groups, in order:
- Unit Curriculum Committee or equivalent
- Unit
- Faculty Curriculum Committee or equivalent

Before moving ahead, you should have the Unit Head’s sign-off on the proposal.

Phase 4 - Preparing for Faculty Approval
The proposal receives iterative review by the following groups as necessary:
- Dean’s Office
- Senate Secretariat (for completeness, form, and grammar)
- College of Graduate Studies (if program is a graduate program)
- Office of the Provost

Formal consultations with the Library, partners and other Faculties are undertaken using the prescribed forms.

Before moving ahead, you should have the proposal and all necessary forms ready for Faculty approval.

Submit proposal for Faculty approval.

After Faculty approval, proposals are submitted to Okanagan.seattle@ubc.ca. The Senate Secretariat conducts a second review. Please highlight any changes that have taken place during the faculty approval process.
Appendix C: Program Approval – Senate, Board, Ministry

New Degree Program Approval – Senate, Board, and Ministry
At this point, much of the work handled by the proponents is near complete. The coordination of the final steps for approval is handled by the Senate and Board Secretariat and the Office of the Provost.

Phase 5 - Senate Secretariat and Committees
- Submit Faculty approved package and all necessary forms to Okanagan.senate@ubc.ca
- Senate Secretariat conducts a second review for completeness and clarity.
- Secretariat will coordinate with the necessary committees and sub-committees for review and advise proponents on timing.
Note: Committees may suggest changes, and depending upon the extent of these changes, the proposal may require an additional review and approval at the Faculty level.

The Senate Secretariat will coordinate any changes to the proposals made at Committee-level, and prepare them for the Senate meeting for final Senate approval. Proponents may wish to attend the Senate meeting.

Senate does not consider matters related to budget and fees. However, a request for tuition/fee approval needs to be submitted to the Board in tandem with the Senate approved program proposal. The tuition/fee submission is prepared, in collaboration with the Strategic Decision Support group and the Office of the Provost, to be ready by the time Senate approved the program proposal.

Phase 6 – Senate and Board Approval
- The Proposal will be proposed jointly to Senate by the reviewing Committees.
- Senate Secretariat will forward the Senate-approved proposal to the Board of Governors.
- The Office of the Provost will prepare the tuition/fees proposal for the Board of Governors.

The Office of the Provost will submit University-approved degree proposals to the Ministry for review if required.

Phase 7 – Ministry Approval
- Allow 3 – 6 months for review
- Students cannot be enrolled in the program and the program cannot be offered until Ministry approval has been received.

The Senate Secretariat will make all of the necessary Calendar updates for the newly approved program, as set out in the proposal.
Appendix D: Sample Submission for a New Degree Program Proposal

General Ministry submission guidelines for a New Degree Program Proposal include:

- Ministry’s ‘Stage 1’ template completion – the template includes a one page “summary description” of the proposal and specific questions to address;
- An Executive Summary of 2; and
- All other proposal documentation used for UBC’s internal approval.

Note there are no specific Ministry guidelines regarding fonts or margins.

For more examples, see UBC’s submissions to the Ministry dated 2016 or later on the Ministry webpage of applications under review:
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/institution-resources-administration/degree-authorization/application-status

The following sample was used in the submission package to the Ministry:


Stage 1 Template - Summary Description of Degree Program: (1 page maximum)

As all levels of government in Canada move toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, there is a need for professionals who can take leadership in designing the integrated high performance energy systems in high performance buildings. The objective of the Masters of Engineering in High Performance Buildings is to provide students with advanced knowledge both in building energy systems modelling and design as well as business and leadership skills. Students will learn to engage the latest technologies for modelling and designing energy systems in green buildings as well as gain an understanding of the broader current approaches to sustainable and regenerative development. At the same time, students will learn to manage projects, lead teams and integrate business data analysis to assess performance.

The Faculty of Applied Science (APSC) has taken the lead in developing a conceptual framework for a series of new Professional Programs comprising a common “Platform” that provides the professional skills required for an experienced graduate to be an effective professional leader, with “Pillars” of specialization courses in particular sectors relevant to APSC’s educational mission and professional communities (the term Platform refers to foundation coursework focused on project management, data analysis, and leadership skills, while the term Pillar is equivalent to specialization). The program will be delivered as an intensive one-year program geared to professionals in the field who wish to upgrade their skills and gain extra credentials. The Platform will be delivered by faculty from the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration and the Pillar will be delivered by the Faculty of Applied Science.

The curriculum is based on innovative teaching strategies which include a key feature of organizing and promoting interaction between students and industrial partners through seminars, debates on advanced energy related topics, industrially sponsored projects and conferences. The degree requires completion of 30 credits. This includes 18 credits of Pillar courses and 12 credits of Platform courses, including 1.5
credits of approved electives from the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration, and a 6-credits of Capstone courses.

The intent is to produce Program Managers who possess sufficient technical understanding to direct technical analysis and design of high performance building energy systems. Some large corporations and government activities within the field find themselves deploying skilled business personnel to lead engineering teams. Often this results in a ‘communications gap’ between managers and technical staff thus impairing team effectiveness. The MEL in HPB program will create Program Managers who are also specialists in the technical area of high performance building energy systems. The program will:

• Equip tomorrow’s professionals with the critical thinking and practical skills necessary to make important contributions to their chosen sector and to make Canada a leader in the global market.

• Capitalize on Vancouver’s industrially diverse environment and UBC’s current stakeholder connections by offering an attractive hands-on education that allows students to get valuable work experience; and allows BC’s companies to benefit from the minds of UBC’s top graduate-level students.

• Link the concerns of extra-university partners by offering students a project-based curriculum that explores cutting edge concepts in collaboration with sector professionals in the Vancouver region.

• Emerge as the leading institution for the continuing education of current leaders in the advanced material manufacturing sector and for the training of tomorrow’s leaders.

• Graduate highly skilled professionals who can fill the jobs gap currently existing and expected to increase in Canada in the foreseeable future.

Continue to develop a high profile faculty with international expertise in the theory and practice of high performance building design.
Appendix E: Examples of Curriculum Proposal Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category: 1 or 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/School: Faculty / School</td>
<td>Faculty/School Approval Date: YYYYMMDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept./Unit: Unit</td>
<td>Date: YYYYMMDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective Session: 20XXW or S</td>
<td>Contact Person: Dr. X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone: 250.807.XXXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:XXX@ubc.ca">XXX@ubc.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Type of Action:** [delete other choices]
- New Course
- Discontinuation of Course
- Revision to Calendar Description
- Revision to Vectors
- Revision to Prerequisite
- New Program
- New Course Code
- Other:

**Rationale:** [explain why type of action is needed (e.g. is the new course filling a gap? Is a new faculty member bringing expertise? Is the course content being updated?); please provide context and rationale as intended audience is from various Faculties]

**TEXT**

**Draft Academic Calendar URL:**

URL
[URL from the draft Academic Calendar http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/proof/edit – not the current, posted Academic Calendar.]

**Present Academic Calendar Entry:**

(Cut and paste from the draft Academic Calendar.)

**Proposed Academic Calendar Entry:**


Appendix F: Guide to Writing Academic Calendar Entry Course Descriptions

Basic Philosophy

- **Undergraduate level:** If the content of a course is adequately covered by its title, a short description is still required to enable students to understand the course content.
- **Graduate level:** Descriptions are not required at the graduate level; the titles may speak for themselves.
- Write in sentence fragments for brevity
- Eliminate anything that is obvious
- Eliminate redundancies
- State clearly and precisely what the course IS about
- Keep descriptions succinct and easy to understand (maximum 500 characters)

A Selection of Discouraged Words and Phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discouraged Word or Phrase</th>
<th>Rationale for Exclusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;A study of&quot;, &quot;Study of&quot;</td>
<td>Implied by: all courses involve study, review, and/or analysis of particular topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;An analysis of&quot;, &quot;Analysis of&quot;</td>
<td>Implied by: all courses involve study, review, and/or analysis of particular topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;An introduction to&quot;</td>
<td>Implied by: all courses will introduce students to new topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Continues to&quot;, &quot;continuation&quot;</td>
<td>Implied by Course Number, description, place in course listings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Examines&quot;, &quot;examines how&quot;</td>
<td>Implied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Focuses on&quot;, &quot;this course focuses on&quot;</td>
<td>Implied by: all courses focus on particular areas; &quot;focus&quot; or &quot;emphasis&quot; should only be used to highlight a special area of importance within a larger overarching course description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Introduction to&quot;, &quot;Introduces&quot;</td>
<td>Implied by: all courses will introduce students to new topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Involves the study of&quot;</td>
<td>Implied by: all courses Involve study, review, and/or analysis of particular topics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Issues include", "The following issues will be explored" | Implied by: the list of topics will be-understood as included issues or areas for study

"Literature course" | Redundant: if it is clear from the title that it is obviously so

"Reviews", "A review of" | Implied by: all courses involve study, review, and/or analysis of particular topics

"Special focus/emphasis" | Redundant: "Focus" or "emphasis" is enough;

"Students will learn" | Implied by: students are assumed to learn about topics specific to a particular course

"This course", "This course is", "In this course" | Redundant: course descriptions naturally describe courses

"To cope with", "deal with" | Superfluous: "address" is a better usage

"Very unique" | Redundant: you cannot intensify "unique"

**Examples**

**Eliminate superfluous words**

a) KLNG 275 (3) Readings in Klingon Narrative
   Introduces students to a variety of narrative forms ...”
   • It is implied that students will be taking the course.
   • "A variety of" is not necessary, as "forms" implies more than one narrative type.
   • Recommended revision: delete the superfluous phrase and use entire course description to focus on specific elements of the course, for example, "Introduces students to Klingon narrative forms, particularly fantasy, epic poem, nonlinear narrative and short story”.

b) KLNG 317 (3) Introduction to Popular Klingon Narrative
   Introduction to popular Klingon literary genres ...
   • It is already clear from the course title that popular narratives are studied in an introductory manner.
   • "Narrative" in title is more specific than "literary genres", making the second descriptor unnecessary.
   • Recommended revision: delete the superfluous phrase and use entire course description to focus on specific elements of the course, for example, “The Klingon narrative, The Legend of Kahless, will be emphasized”.

c) KLNG 144 (3) Backgrounds to Classical Klingon Texts
Survey course to acquaint students with Classical Klingon texts that have influenced Western literature. Students will study Classical Klingon texts ...

- It is already clear from the course title that Classical Klingon texts are involved.
- It is already implied that students will be taking the course.
- Recommended revision: “Survey, focusing on Classical Klingon texts that have influenced Western literature, including ... [lists examples of texts]”.

Use economical language; eliminate ambiguous language
a) Develops students' communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing
   - "Skills" is preferable to "communicative competence in".
   - Recommended revision: "Develops listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills".

b) Consult course listings for current year's offerings
   - Statement should specify where such listings can be found.
   - Recommended revision: "Consult department for current year's offerings".

c) KLNG 321 (3) Business Klingon I
   An advanced Klingon language course: Practical business-focused reading, writing, and presentation will be organised to build up students' comprehensive abilities, for deal with business interactions and documents.”
   - Problems with tense, prepositions, awkward verbiage.
   - Unnecessarily complicated sentence structure.
   - More redundancy and stating of the obvious.
   - Recommended revision: "Practical business-focused reading, writing, and presentation skills addressing business interactions and documents."

d) KLNG 401 (3) Media Klingon
   Focuses on further developing students' abilities to read and understand the Klingon language used in the context of media primarily through newspapers as well as radio/TV broadcasts and Internet news.”
   - Problems with prepositions, verbiage.
   - Serial comma is required.
   - Recommended revision: "Reading and understanding Klingon as used in newspapers, radio/TV, and Internet news."

Use transparent and sensible subject groupings and descriptions
a) KLNG 115 (6) Intensive Basic Klingon II
   Continues to develop students' communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading and writing in spoken Klingon and modern written Klingon, with special emphasis on reading and writing.”
• Sort communication skills by medium (i.e., one listens to and speaks a spoken language; one reads and writes a written one).
• A continuing course will "continue" to develop whatever skill is on offer; there is no need to say so.
• Listening, speaking, etc., are communication skills.
• Serial comma is required.
• Recommended revision: "Skills in listening to and speaking Klingon, reading and writing modern written Klingon; emphasis on reading and writing".
Appendix G: Course Syllabus Template

Course Syllabus Template for Senate Curriculum Submissions

Academic Calendar Entry
Paste the entire calendar entry as it appears on the proposal (course code, number, credits, description, vectors, prerequisites, etc.)

Course Format
How is the course structured? Lectures, labs, tutorials, seminars, online?

Course Overview, Content, and Objectives
What objectives will be achieved (instructor perspective)?
The course will examine/will provide students with:

• Learning Outcomes
What will students know and be able to do as a result of engaging in the learning process (student perspective)? What are the knowledge, skills and values gained through course completion?
After completing this course, students will be able to:
  • Information and support: http://ctl-ok.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2016/10/learning_outcomes.pdf

Evaluation Criteria and Grading
• How are learning outcomes assessed?
• What assignments, mid-terms, or exams will be required of students?
  - Provide a one-to-two sentence description of each component.
  - Provide grading rubrics
  - What will each component of the course evaluation be worth (mark breakdown)?
  - Are the exams oral or written?
  - Is the final exam cumulative?
  - If participation counts for over 5%, provide an explanation of how grade was arrived at.
  • Is the course graded on a numeric (percentage) or pass/fail basis?
    - If pass is not 50%, then indicate what percentage constitutes a pass.

Required Readings and Videos
Include a detailed bibliography of any required textbooks and/or videos.
Appendix H: Suggestions for Creating File Names

Please use a consistent approach with file naming for curriculum proposals submitted to the Senate Secretariat. Below is a description of the Senate Secretariat file naming conventions.

Basic Philosophy

Include:

- Lowercase 4 letter code for the faculty
- Category level (1, 2)
- Uppercase 4 letter code for the subject / course code
- Three number course code if applicable and/or
- Lowercase 4 letter subject qualifier (see abbreviations below)
- Date format YYYYMMDD; the date original proposal received by Senate Secretariat

Tips:

- Append versions when document content changes
  apsc-NAME-523-20140208.docx
  apsc-NAME-523-20140208-v2.docx
- Same filename with different date is new proposal
  apsc-NAME-523-20140208.docx
  apsc-NAME-523-20150920.docx

Examples

Category 1 Engineering course proposal form
apso-1-ENGR-406-20140404.docx

Category 1 Creative Writing syllabus
fccs-1-CRWR-205-syll-20140408.docx

Category 1 Education library consultation for 2 courses
eduo-1-EPSE-433-565-libc-20140211.pdf

Category 1 Indigenous Studies consultations (multiple courses in one consultation form)
arsc-1-INDG-cnsl-20140409.pdf (any further INDG consultation submissions can be distinguished by the submission date)

Category 1 Masters of Management program consultation report form
mgmt-1-MGMT-MA-cnsl-rpt-20140317.pdf

Category 1 Political Science course budget consultation
arsc-1-POLI-317-finc-20140314.pdf

Category 1 Biochemistry major program revision
arsc-1-BIOC-major-rprg-20140314.docx
Category 1 Human Kinetics degree requirement change  
hsd-1-hmkn-degr-rqmt-20140403.docx

Category 2 Education (Graduate level) program requirement, version 1 (after one change)  
eduo-2-GSTO-prog-rqmt-20140211-v1.docx

Category 2 Nursing Academic Calendar addition (a paragraph in the Calendar, as opposed to course description change)  
hsd-2-NRSG-cal-20140316.docx

**Abbreviations for Okanagan Units**  
College of Graduate Studies - GSTO  
Faculty of Applied Science – APSO  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences – ARSC  
Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies – FCCS  
Faculty of Education – EDUO  
Faculty of Health and Social Development – HSD  
Faculty of Management – MGMT  
Irving K Barber School of Arts and Sciences – ARSC  
School of Health and Exercise Sciences – HMKN  
School of Nursing – NRSG  
School of Social Work – SOCW  

**Abbreviations for File Naming**  
adms Admissions  
cal Calendar Entry  
cnsl Consultation  
crse Course  
curr Curriculum  
degr Degree  
finc Budget Consultation  
libc Library Consultation  
libr Library  
nprg New Program  
preq Prerequisite  
prgm Program  
prop Proposal  
rprg Revise Program  
rqmt Requirement  
syll Syllabus or Course Outline
Appendix I: Example of a change to a UBC Parchment

To: Senate Curriculum Committee

From: Associate Dean, Faculty of Science

Date: Oct. 30, 2007

The following proposal was approved today at the meeting of the Faculty of Science council.

Re: Change to UBC degree parchment for students in the Faculty of Science

Background & Rationale

Currently the parchment for the B.Sc. degree uses only one of three possible lines to describe the degree and states only “Bachelor of Science”. Some other faculties already provide more descriptive information about the program of study on the parchment. Science is a rich and diverse field of study and students increasingly identify with their discipline within Science which may include one or more major or honours programs as well as one of several minors. Students have expressed interest in seeing more information on their parchments but to more describe some of the complex combinations of areas of study now pursued would go beyond the level of detail envisioned by Senate when it set out provisions for modifying the parchment in 1997.

Therefore, whereas Senate has allowed for a Faculty that wishes to change what appears on the parchment for an existing degree to make a proposal to the Senate Curriculum Committee for consideration and approval by Senate, and whereas Senate has allowed for “inclusion of information about the field of study” on the second line of the parchment (recommendation #8 of the report on Degree Names and Parchments, approved by Senate on October 15, 1997),

and whereas Senate similarly allowed for “information in addition to the degree name and field of study” to appear on the third line of the parchment, such as “Co-operative Education Program” and “standing achieved” (recommendation #9 of the report on Degree Names and Parchments, approved by Senate on October 15, 1997),

and whereas the existing provision for “standing” which is limited for the B.Sc. degree to the acknowledgement of completion of an “Honours Program” does not conform to the practices in the Faculty of Science,

Proposal

The Faculty of Science respectfully requests approval to use all three available lines on the parchment, as follows:

- Line 1: “Bachelor of Science” (unchanged)
- Line 2: Field of Study, as described below
• Line 3: Other information, specifically “Co-operative Education Program” and the Graduating Standing “with Distinction” as described below and in a separate proposal to the Senate Curriculum Committee.

Explanation

**Line 2: Field of Study**

Each B.Sc. student will have a primary specialization and some will have a secondary specialization. The primary specialization will be one of the following types: Major, Combined Major, General Science, Integrated Sciences, Honours, and Combined Honours. Each of those types is offered in many different fields of study. Although the Major is the standard type and therefore might be understood even if it were not stated on the parchment (the option would be to state “Bachelor of Science in X” for a Major program in the field of X), its inclusion is required for reasons stated below. The proposed representation of the various types of primary specializations is shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Specialization Type</th>
<th>Appearance on Parchment Line 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Major in Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Major</td>
<td>Combined Major in Computer Science and Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Science Route A (two areas of concentration)</td>
<td>In General Science, Life Science and Earth Science Concentrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Science Route B (one major area of concentration)</td>
<td>In General Science, Chemistry Concentration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Sciences (prior to creation of the Major in Integrated Sciences)</td>
<td>In Integrated Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours</td>
<td>Honours in Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Honours</td>
<td>Combined Honours in Biochemistry and Chemistry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some B.Sc. students will have a secondary specialization which normally will be a Major or Honours either in a second Science discipline or one in the Faculty of Arts. The second specialization should appear after the first specialization using the standards in the table above. Examples would be:

- Two programs in Science disciplines: Major in Physics and Major in Cell Biology and Genetics,
- One Science program and one Arts program: Honours in Mathematics and Major in German.

The second example demonstrates the need to include the “type” even if it is “Major” for if “Major” were omitted the nature of the student’s studies could be misrepresented (i.e., “Honours in Mathematics and in German” would imply a double honours program).
B.Sc. students can also be approved to complete one of many types of Minor programs in addition to a primary specialization (sometimes even in addition to primary and secondary specializations). No request is being made to include a description of a Minor on the parchment because although such study is indicative of a student’s interests and accomplishments, it is not core to the B.Sc. degree and it will be acknowledged on the transcript.

**Line 3: Other Information**

a) “Co-operative Education Program” should appear to acknowledge a significant component of a graduate’s educational experience which amounts to from three to five terms without contributing to the academic credits required for the B.Sc. degree. The office of Science Co-op determines when the requirements for the designation have been met.

b) Standing: The Faculty is requesting Senate through a separate proposal to institute a graduating standing (“with Distinction”) for scholars who meet certain requirements.

Line three, therefore, may be blank or it may include one or both of the above, as appropriate. If both, separating them by a comma may be the clearest way to represent the student’s status so that the “standing” will not seem to apply only to “Co-operative Education Program”.
Appendix J: Course Schedule

The UBC Course Schedule, part of the Student Service Centre, found at courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/main allows students to browse courses, view timetables, and register for courses.

Should Faculties wish to publish course specific information that appears in the Course Schedule, there are applicable areas:

**Course Comments**
Course comments are restricted to registration-specific information that affects all sections of a course.

**Section Published Notes**
Section Published Notes should be restricted to registration-specific information, but may be used to describe specific topics covered in a given offering of a topics course. To provide students with course-specific information, Faculties are encouraged to put course syllabi online and include a link to each course’s syllabus from the Course Schedule. For assistance in using any of the fields described here, please contact Scheduling Services at schedulingservices@students.ubc.ca.

a) Section Published Note Example: Registration-specific note

ENGL 112 01A (3) Strategies for University Writing

Study and practice of the principles of University-level discourse, with multidisciplinary readings and emphasis on processes of research-based writing. Essays required.

-LPI level 5 or approved LPI exemption required to remain registered in this class. For further details on the LPI requirement [including exemptions and deadlines], please visit www.lpitest.ca-No student may take two First-Year English courses at the same time.

b) Section Published Note Example: Topics description

HIST 402E 101 (3) Problems in International Relations

Selected topics such as trade, migration, diplomacy, war, migration, colonialism, and post-colonialism. Priority for registration to majors in History or International Relations.

- In 2012W, the topic for HIST 402E, section 101 is The Nuclear Century: Scientists, Atoms, and the World Order since 1900. Science and the military-industrial complex; quantum and relativistic revolutions in physics; nuclear energy and weapons of mass destruction; international tensions, environmental damage, and global perils.