

S.73-90

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS BOARD

Subject TRANSFER CREDIT FOR ONTARIO GRADE
XIII

Date JULY 16, 1973

MOTION: "That transfer credit no longer be granted for work taken in Ontario Grade XIII. That this policy become effective for admission to Spring Semester, 1974 and later."

(Explanatory Note: If the above motion is approved no transfer credit will be given on the basis of Ontario Grade XIII work, regardless of when it was taken, to those granted admission to this University to the Spring semester 1974 and later.)

S.73-90

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To MR. H.M. EVANS
SECRETARY, SENATE

Subject TRANSFER CREDIT FOR ONTARIO GRADE XIII
PAPER SUAB 50

From DR. D. MEAKIN, SECRETARY
SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS BOARD

Date 16TH JULY, 1973

I am enclosing a paper relating to Ontario Grade XIII for submission to the next meeting of Senate.

The motion contained therein was passed unanimously at a meeting of the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board on July 11th, 1973.

Attach.
DM:bc

TO: SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS BOARD

FROM: DR. D. MEAKIN, SECRETARY, S.U.A.B.

DATE: 21ST MARCH, 1973

SUBJECT: TRANSFER CREDIT FOR ONTARIO GRADE XIII

INTRODUCTION

At the present time, Simon Fraser University gives six semester hours of transfer credit for each Ontario Grade XIII subject completed. I believe that it is time that this policy was reviewed, as there have been a considerable number of changes in organization and curriculum since the policy was introduced in 1969.

BACKGROUND

Ontario secondary schools currently offer two types of programme:--

Secondary School Graduation Diploma (Grade XII)

A four-year programme with an emphasis on careers. There are five different programmes available --

Arts and Science
Business and Commerce
Science, Technology and Trades
Agriculture
Home Economics

Graduates of the four-year programme are not eligible for admission to university, or to many of the programmes offered by the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology.

Secondary School Honours Graduation Diploma (Grade XIII)

A five-year programme with an academic emphasis. It is this

programme which is required for university admission, both in Ontario and elsewhere.

In 1968, the provincial Grade XIII examinations were discontinued, perhaps the key act in a series of major changes which occurred in following years. Other changes were:--

- reduction of the Grade XIII load from 9 credits to 7 credits, and later to 6 credits
- freeing of curriculum in prescribed subjects
- freedom of schools to offer new subjects
- variation of credits for prescribed subjects

CURRENT SITUATION

In dealing with Ontario Grade XIII, we are faced with a rather confusing situation, but with the following features:--

- a) Ontario Grade XIII courses appear to differ little from B.C. Grade XII courses (see details below)
- b) Ontario students frequently complete their "13 years" in twelve.
- c) There are wide variations in curriculum through Ontario. It is no longer possible to assume that a student coming out of Ontario Grade XIII has any particular background in any of the subjects he has taken.
- d) The absence of a centrally marked examination has led to a significant inflation of secondary school marks. In the first year of school marking, for example, 20% more students in Grade XIII English achieved a grade of 60% or better. This could result in many more marginal students meeting university admission requirements. These could run into considerable academic difficulty if placed directly into second-year courses.

As a result of this situation, I believe that it is no longer appropriate for us to grant transfer credit for Ontario Grade XIII. A detailed rationale is given below.

MOTION:

" That transfer credit no longer be granted for work taken in Ontario Grade XIII.
That this policy becomes effective for admission to Spring Semester, 1974 and later. "

RATIONALE

- a) Many students in Ontario are now accelerated and receive the Honour Graduation Diploma in 12 years. Thus, completion of Grade XIII is no longer an indication of the completion of an additional year of schooling when compared to B.C.
- b) Education received in a high school setting cannot be compared with the university experience. Ontario Grade XIII is the only North American high school work now recognized for credit by S.F.U.
- c) With the termination of provincial examinations and the freeing of curricula in Ontario, there is no consistent course content for any subject, nor is there any assurance that a standard approaching that of first-year university in B.C. has been reached.
- d) Curriculum studies indicate that, in many subjects, Ontario Grade XIII curriculum is comparable to B.C. Grade XII.
For example:--
 - 1) Service for Admission to College and University (SACU) recently carried out a detailed cross-Canada study of math curricula in connection with the establishment of a maths achievement test. This

showed that the Ontario Grade XIII Math curriculum (as well as it could be defined) contained a maximum of 2 months work above B.C. Grade XII. This would represent far less than a single 3-semester hour university course. Currently only unassigned credit is given for Maths.

- ii) Biology 11 and 12 cover all the material in Ontario Grade XIII biology. This is confirmed by a letter received from a student (Appendix I). Currently, students with B.C. Grade XII Biology are given standing for Bisc 101, 102, whereas Ontario students are given credit. Ontario students thus receive a 6-hours credit advantage over B.C. students for the same work.
- iii) Physics recently found it necessary to change the credit awarded for Grade XIII Physics from Phys 101, 102(6) to unassigned credit. They had found that students from Ontario were not prepared to enter 200-level Physics directly, even though this is the normal level of entry for students from B.C. Grade XII.
- iv) Students from Ontario Grade XIII Chemistry are required to enter the sequence from Chem 104, the same starting point used for students from B.C. Chemistry 12. Again, Ontario students are given a 6-semester-hour credit advantage over B.C. students for completing a course using the same text and lab manual.
- v) Language courses. Course descriptions do not provide adequate information on the proficiency reached. In fact, proficiency is often more dependent on factors other than formal courses taken. However, all incoming students who take a language course are given a placement test. Any student given advanced placement is given appropriate credit through the Course Challenge mechanism, so it is unnecessary to grant transfer credit for Grade XIII language courses.
- vi) Courses in other Arts subjects are more difficult to assess, since course descriptions do not define

the sophistication required. Also, the prerequisite structure in these subjects is less restrictive and no formal prerequisites are essential to proceed to second-year work with a good prospect for success. However, it is probably reasonable to assume that Ontario Grade XIII Arts courses are not uniformly of a higher standard than Science courses, which are definitely more equivalent to B.C. Grade XII.

- e) The University of British Columbia, which for many years has not been giving transfer credit for Ontario Grade XIII Math, Physics and Chemistry, stopped giving credit for the other subjects in 1971. (See Appendix 2 and 3).
- f) No other university in Western Canada (with perhaps one exception) recognizes Ontario Grade XIII as being above their own province's Grade XII.
- g) Many universities in Ontario now admit students from B.C. Grade XII on the same basis as those from Ontario Grade XIII.
- h) This University's somewhat more liberal policy with regard to Ontario Grade XIII has recently caused a number of questions to be raised in regard to teacher certification and salary levels.

1256 CASTLE HILL CRESCENT
OTTAWA 8, ONTARIO
CANADA

Sept. 15 1971

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask what credits you give for Ontario Grade 13.

My parents were transferred to Ottawa last year. I stayed and graduated from Grade 12 at Burnaby North Senior Secondary School. Here is a list of marks from my transcript.

English 11	C+
English 12	B✓
Social Studies 11	B
P.H.E & Guidance 11	B
Mathematics 11	A
Biology 11	A
Chemistry 11	B
French 11	B
Art 11	C+
Math 12	B
French 12	B✓
Biology 12	A✓
History 12	B
Eng Literature 12	B

Now I have joined my family in Ottawa and am taking Grade 13 here. Before leaving Burnaby I asked about S.F.U.'s policy for admitting Ontario Grade 13.

students. I understand that with certain subjects one can be admitted to second year university.

The credit system for Ontario senior Matric has just changed this year. Now each thirteenth year course is worth one credit. Six credits are needed to graduate. Following is a list of all the Grade 13 courses offered.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| English 1 | ✓ Functions and Relations. |
| ✓ English 2 (Can. lit and formal composition) | Algebra |
| ✓ History (Amer. + Can) | ✓ Calculus |
| Geography | Latin |
| Biology | ✓ French |
| Physics | Art |
| ✓ Chemistry | Music |

I am taking the courses which are ticked. Are they acceptable for my second year entrance? Do you suggest any changes?

PROBLEM: I am very interested in Biology, and perhaps want to take it as a Major in university. Unfortunately I have discovered that having taken Biology 11 & 12 in B.C. I have covered all the material in Ontario Section 13. Will I be restricted in this field if I don't take Biology 13 here?

I would appreciate it if you could answer my questions as quickly as possible to enable me to make the necessary adjustments in my courses. Thank-you very much.

Sincerely yours,
Margaret Flaherty

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER 8, CANADA

APPENDIX 2

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OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

January 20th, 1971

Mr. Denys Meakin
Director of Admissions
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby 2, B.C.

Dear Mr. Meakin:

re Grade 13, Ontario

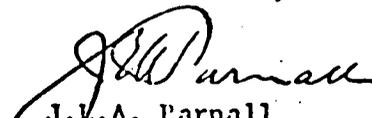
Enclosed with this note is a circular that we are now sending to applicants from outside British Columbia. It represents no change in policy except relative to Grade 13 Ontario.

For some time we have been unable to grant Freshmen credit for Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics taken in Grade 13 Ontario, as they do not represent a level of studies substantially different from the courses offered in our Grade 12. With all governmental curricular controls now removed in Ontario we can no longer offer University credit for courses given in secondary schools.

Incidentally, we are now settled in our resolve to consider the normal "first degree" to be one involving four years or the equivalent of university-level study beyond secondary school. The institutions offering a 3-year degree with an additional year to give an "honours" degree are in our view giving a sub-standard 3-year degree and a proper 4-year degree - the term "honours" notwithstanding (Calgary has seen the light and has dropped all 3-year degrees).

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely


J.L.A. Parnall
Registrar

/rh
/C
encl.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver 8, B. C.

Office of the Registrar

January, 1971.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS FROM OTHER CANADIAN PROVINCES

(Except for Graduate Studies)

I. Admission from a school or college offering pre-university studies

Admission is considered on an individual basis, subject to the conditions set out in the following statement of admissions policy and explanatory notes:

The minimum academic qualification for admission is matriculation in a public university (i.e. eligibility for admission to a public university) in the applicant's own province, provided that the subject-matter presented and the standing obtained meet the requirements of The University of British Columbia, and:

- (a) *no university degree credit will be granted for studies completed in secondary school, but where studies have been taken beyond the usual secondary school level advance placement will be considered (i.e. consideration will be given to permit the starting of university studies at a higher level than usual);*
- (b) *applicants from Newfoundland where Grade 11 represents the end of secondary schooling will require successful completion of at least First Year at Memorial University or the equivalent before consideration can be given to their transfer to The University of British Columbia;*
- (c) *applicants from the Province of Quebec will normally be expected to hold le diplôme d'études collégiales (D.E.C.), having completed the two-year academic course of studies at a collège d'enseignement général et professionnel (CEGEP) and, upon acceptance, would in general be given advance credit for the equivalent of one year of university studies; applicants could be considered for admission to the First Year following completion of Grade 12 or two semesters of a CEGEP.*

Note 1. The University of British Columbia, under present conditions, is not able to accept all qualified applicants. Applicants must give their reasons for seeking admission to this University. Applicants seeking admission to Faculties offering professional studies are normally expected to have completed in full the pre-professional requirements at another institution.

Continued/

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER 8, CANADA

APPENDIX 3

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FACULTY OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

December 20, 1972

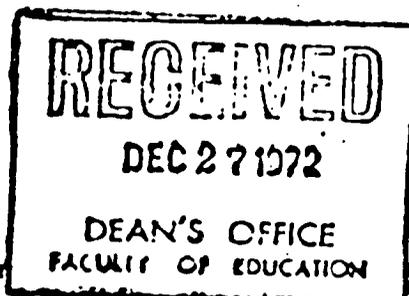
Dr. D. G. Peterson
University of Victoria
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Dr. Peterson:

At U.B.C. we have recently had to review and revise some of our former decisions about the granting of credit for persons transferring from Ontario to our British Columbian Bachelor Degrees. Up until last Spring, we have been granting 20 units of credit to an elementary teacher from Ontario who completed grade 13 there plus his year at a teachers college. On the other hand, we have also given 2 units for the two year teachers college program and we have also given 17 units for the pre-summer plus winter program of the emergency system which they once had.

After careful investigation of what the universities in Ontario are willing to grant credit and a careful investigation of some of the new programs in grade 13, we have discontinued granting credit for grade 13 work in Ontario. Furthermore, we discovered that the work in English, Geography and History at the teachers colleges was of lower level than that of grade 13 so we were unable to grant credit for those courses in the training colleges. In future, therefore, we can grant only 2 units of credit for the two year training program in the teachers colleges in Ontario; that is, 15 units for their basic teacher education, and 3 units for the equivalent of our Education 331 and the equivalent of our Education 400. In fact, what we actually do is to give them 6 units of unassigned Education credit rather than actually designating Education 331 or Education 400.

I have been in communication with Dean Ian Yet. Cowan the chairman of the Academic Board for Higher Education of British Columbia, and he asked me to enquire whether a similar type of transfer of credit would be acceptable in Simon Fraser University and University of Victoria. He seems to think



that the three universities should at least adopt a somewhat common attitude towards this problem of acceptance of credits from other provinces. I would be glad to hear what you think of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

N. V. Scarfe

N. V. Scarfe
Dean

NS/kr

c.c. Dean Daniel Fitch
Simon Fraser University