

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**  
**Memorandum**

S.88-17  
As amended  
by Senate  
11/04/88

To: Senate

From: N. Heath

Subject: A.B.E. Provincial Diploma  
Program: SUAB 180

Date: 88 03 22

Action arising out of SUAB leads to the following motion:

**That the University accept applicants for admission on completion of the Adult Basic Education Provincial Diploma, subject to the following conditions:**

- a) minimum age on completion to be 19 years
- b) the student must have standing in A.B.E. Advanced Level or Grade 11 English, Algebra, Science, Social Studies and a language other than English (the Social Studies could be a subject combining several disciplines, or could be in a single discipline such as Geography)
- c) the student must have a minimum of four subjects at the Provincial level including English and any three Grade 12 equivalent subjects from any of the following:
  - ~~Sciences—~~  
Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science
  - ~~Languages, Humanities and Social Sciences—~~  
Literature, Languages, Geography, History
  - ~~Mathematics—~~  
Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Statistics
- d) all of the four Provincial level subjects should be graded to show the level of achievement (ie. pass/fail or mastery/incomplete grades are not acceptable)
- e) a minimum average of C+ is required on the four Provincial - level subjects
- f) each college offering a Provincial Diploma program must submit outlines of the courses which may be included in the program, and on an ongoing basis, samples of final examinations in any course given at a Provincial (Grade 12 equivalent) level.

NH:sf



**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**  
**Memorandum**

To: S.U.A.B.

From: N. Heath  
Secretary, S.U.A.B.

Subject: **A.B.E. Provincial Diploma**  
**SUAB 180**

Date: 1988/02/22

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Adult Basic Education (A.B.E.) programs in B.C. have been reorganized and a standard curriculum has been adopted by the province's community colleges and by the Open Learning Institute. There are four levels: Fundamental, Intermediate, Advanced and Provincial. The Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Creation will issue a Provincial Diploma to students completing the Provincial level. The University has been asked to evaluate the Diploma for university admission.

The A.B.E. Provincial Diploma replaces the "College Foundations" programs offered by some colleges, including V.C.C. (King Edward Campus). This is accepted by S.F.U. for admissions, with some provisos. (See attached.) At the Provincial level, the new A.B.E. Program takes in courses which many colleges offered as "College Preparation" rather than as A.B.E. courses.

In addition to the normal secondary school graduation requirements, the Ministry of Education offers an Adult (Interrupted) Secondary School Graduation Diploma known as the Adult Dogwood. S.F.U. decided in 1985 not to accept this credential for admission. The main reason for this decision was the inappropriate use of the credential by some independent schools for international students who were not of adult age and who had not previously dropped out of school.

Although the clear purpose of the A.B.E. Provincial Diploma is to provide to adults who did not finish high school an opportunity to upgrade their education to a Grade 10 or higher standard, the A.B.E. Provincial Diploma is being offered to international students in some B.C. colleges. Many of these students have Grade 11 standing from overseas, so the diploma may be completed in a short time - e.g. 4-8 months. There are no provincial examinations and no minimum age requirements. This credential offers a shorter, and probably less rigorous, secondary school graduation opportunity to an international student who otherwise might enrol in a public or independent secondary school to complete the regular secondary school program.

The use of the A.B.E. Program for international students is controversial; the program is designed for adults who have not had good access to secondary education or whose level of motivation while in school was low, but has subsequently improved. The typical international student is one who has been in continuous attendance in academic courses. Usually he/she will be about 17 years old. Sometimes he/she will have attempted Grade 12 + level work already but achieved inadequate grades for direct entry to a Canadian university. I have expressed to several college administrators a preference for these students to take a year of transferable course work in a college before entering S.F.U. However, as stated above, we have accepted students from the College Foundations Program, including some international students.

The University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria have accepted the A.B.E. Provincial Diploma for admission (see attached letter).

The courses which may be used towards the Diploma are not standardized across the Province and there is wide diversity in the titles and prerequisites for Grade 12-equivalent courses. This might be indicative of varying standards in the A.B.E. Programs offered. Some courses are given titles indicating their grade level - e.g. Chemistry 12 (Malaspina College) Other examples are Chemistry 080: Foundations for General Chemistry (Camosun College) and Chemistry 110: Basic Principles of Chemistry II (Selkirk College). In this latter example, the Selkirk College course carries transfer credit to S.F.U. (and other universities). This course might therefore not qualify a student with the Provincial Diploma for admission to U.B.C. The issue of transferability of Grade 12 equivalent courses is however, separate; courses should be counted towards the Diploma and for university admission whether or not they receive transfer credit to the university.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

To accept applicants for admission to the University on completion of the Adult Basic Education Provincial Diploma, subject to the following conditions:

- minimum age on completion to be 19 years
- standing in A.B.E. Advanced Level English, Algebra, Science, and a language other than English
- minimum of four subjects at Provincial level including English and any 3 Grade 12 equivalent level subjects from any of the following subjects:

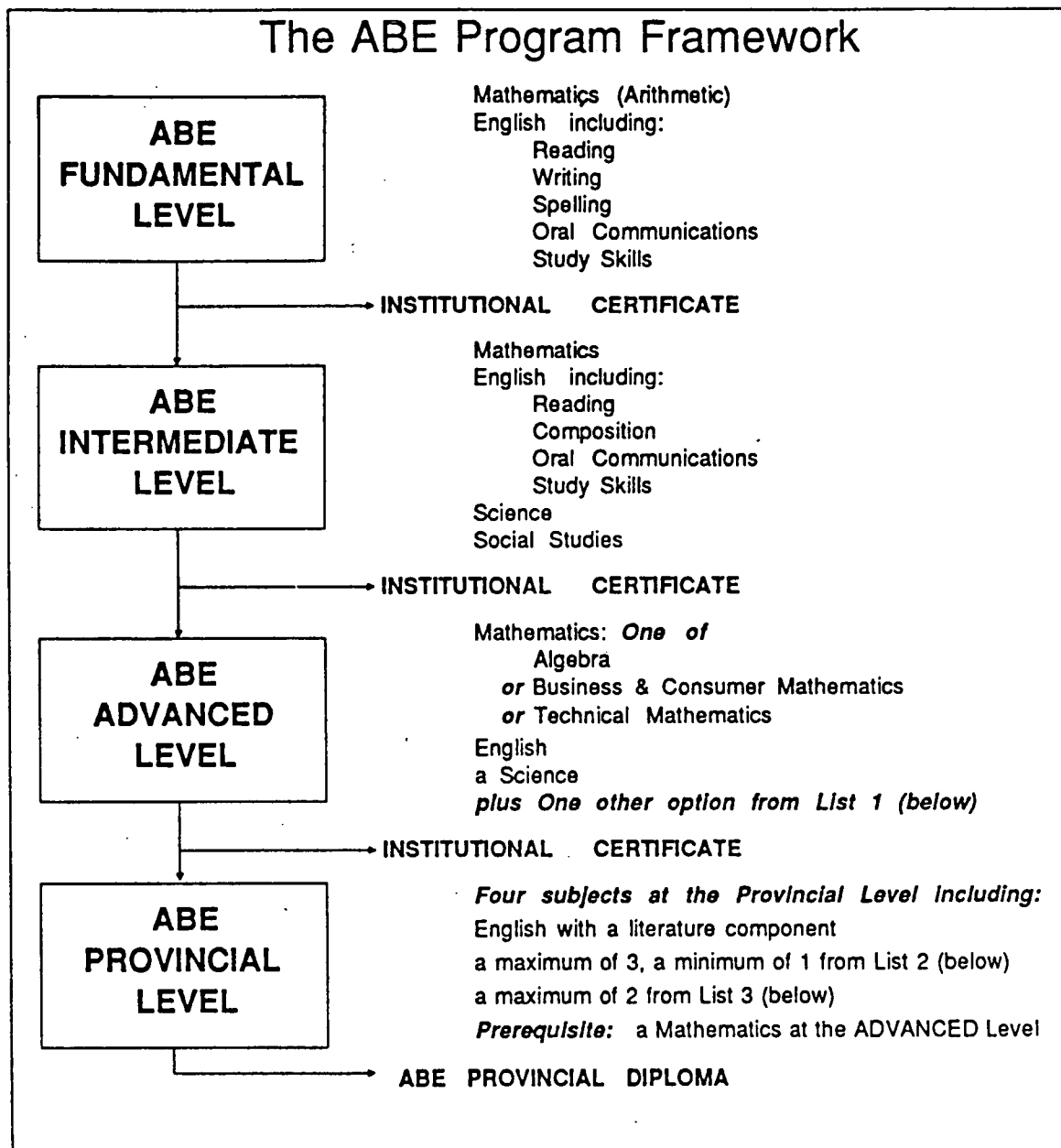
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- . Sciences - Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science
  - . Languages, Humanities and Social Sciences - Languages, Geography
  - . Mathematics - Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Statistics
- 
- all of the four Provincial level subjects should be graded to show the level of achievement (i.e. pass/fail or mastery/incomplete grades are not acceptable)
  - a minimum average of C+ is required on the four Provincial-level subjects
  - each college offering a Provincial Diploma program should submit outlines of the courses which may be included in the program.

NH:sf

# The ABE Program Framework



1. Options may be chosen from social studies, another science subject, TRAC Occupational, a language, computer science/or studies, etc.

2. Chosen subjects to be drawn from: Sciences, including biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences, geography, astronomy, oceanography. Languages Humanities and Social Sciences including history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, political science, psychology, economics, literature, classical studies, legal courses. Mathematics including algebra, geometry, calculus, trigonometry, statistics Computer Sciences

3. This list includes Business Administration courses, Office Administration courses, Consumer Education, TRAC Specialty, Visual and performing arts.

Revised May 1987