

S.11-68

Amended by Senate
on May 24/11



OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AND
ASSOCIATE PROVOST

8888 University Drive,
Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

TEL: 778.782.4636
FAX: 778.782.5876

avpcio@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	April 9, 2011
FROM	Bill Krane, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Revision of the BC 12 Admission Course List (SCUS 11-26)		

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Bill Krane, the chair of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of April 7, 2011, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion 1:

the specific list of

That non-provincially examinable BC Grade 12 courses be used in the calculation of the admission average effective Summer 2012.



3000 Maggie Benston Centre
8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

TEL 778.782.3108
FAX 778.782.5732

students.sfu.ca

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	DATE	April 4, 2011
FROM	Kate Ross, Registrar & Executive Director, Student Enrolment	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Use of Non-Provincially Examinable Courses for Admission		

PROPOSED MOTION FOR SCUS

That the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies approve and recommend to Senate the use of non-provincially examinable BC grade 12 courses in the calculation of the admission average.

BACKGROUND

In June, 2008, Senate approved the elimination of provincial examinations for admission other than those where the exam is a mandatory requirement for high school graduation (English 12). If a student did choose to write an optional provincial exam, the grade would only be used if it increased the student's admission average. The approval of this motion did not result in a change in the courses being used for admission; this list remained limited to grade 12 courses which have a provincial exam component.

We would now like to expand the course list for admission to include courses that do not have a provincial exam component. SFU is the only university in Canada which continues to limit the courses that BC students can use for admission to provincially examinable courses only. This past admission cycle, Fall 2010, SFU and UBC were the only two universities who maintained the requirement for four provincially examinable grade 12 courses. Effective Fall 2011, this requirement is specific to SFU alone; UBC has added non-provincially examinable grade 12 courses to their list of approved courses for admission.

This recent change by UBC will have serious consequences on our recruitment efforts not only within BC but nationwide. There is an issue of fairness and consistency across institutions especially within the province on how BC high school students are treated. Counselors have been advocating for a change in our course list since 2008 when provincial exams became optional, the biggest complaint being the rigidity in the breadth of courses a BC high school student can follow to pursue a degree at SFU.

Admission to both UBC and UVIC is based on a four-course model and there are no plans to change this model. The interest is in expanding the breadth of courses an applicant can present for admission. Specific course requirements for Faculties will not change (for example, admission to the Faculty of Science will still require English 12, Math 12, and two grade 12 Science courses).

Admission offers for secondary school applicants are made on the basis of self-reported and interim grades. Provincial exam results, which are not typically received until August have limited utility in the current admission process, other than to revoke offers if the minimum admission requirements are not met.

We have reviewed the course requirements for universities in BC and across Canada (Appendix A) and we have consulted with our BC Counsellors Advisory Board. The following courses are deemed acceptable by

comparable universities: Comparative Civilizations 12, Calculus 12, Law 12 and Economics 12. Philosophy 12, Social Justice 12 and Sustainable Resources 12 are courses that are not necessarily accepted as readily; however we ask that they be considered based on their relationship with the programs of study at SFU. Further discussion and clarification of the process around the use of additional non-provincially examinable grade 12 courses is required.

DATA

There have been no recent studies at SFU on the impact of eliminating the provincial exam. However, in 2008, the paper titled: "Change to admission requirements with regard to BC Provincial Grade 12 Examinations" (S.08-10) was discussed at Senate. As a result of this discussion, data was requested to respond to questions pertaining to the relationship between high school admission grades (exam-only, course-only, blended course and exam grade) and performance at SFU (S.08-93). The analysis concluded that the blended grade is a better predictor of student performance as it contains more information than the exam or course only grade; and that as admission averages increase so does academic performance.

PROPOSED CALENDAR ENTRY (Changes in bold)

Admission from British Columbia and Yukon Secondary Schools

General Requirements	
Grade 12	<p>English 12 or English 12 First Peoples or Français première langue and three grade 12 courses from the following list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC First Nations studies 12 • Calculus 12 • Comparative Civilization 12 • Economics 12 • English literature 12 • French or Français langue seconde 12 • German 12 • History 12 • Japanese 12 • Law 12 • Mandarin 12 • Philosophy 12 • Principles of Mathematics 12 • Punjabi 12 • Social Justice 12 • Spanish 12 • Sustainable Resources 12 <p><i>Science 12 courses</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology 12 • Chemistry 12 • Geography 12 • Geology 12 • Physics 12

