

**Submission to Academic Affairs Committee
Proposed Harmonization of Degree Requirement Across Arts and Science Divisions of U of T
Resulting Change in Degree Requirements at U T Mississauga – to be introduced in the 2009-10
Calendar**

A Committee of Tri Campus Deans and Registrars meets on a regular basis to discuss issues of concern to all three campuses. One of the common threads to these meetings has been to harmonize policies and practices wherever possible and realistic. Most recently we examined the rules governing the granting of degrees. It was agreed that all three campuses should make every effort to share common regulations with respect to graduation requirements. Of note, currently UTM and FAS both require a 1.5 CGPA for a student to be in good standing and a 1.85 for a student to graduate. UTSC on the other hand requires 1.6 for both good standing and graduation. FAS permits students who meet all the requirements for the Hon.B.A or Hon. BSc except the GPA requirement to elect to graduate with a BA or BSc, provided they are in Good Standing (i.e CGPA is 1.5 or more). UTM currently does not offer this exception.

UTSC plans to harmonize completely with FAS and will take these new requirements forward through their governance process over the coming months.

It is recommended that UT Mississauga consider completely harmonizing our degree requirements with the rest of the arts and sciences faculties as well. We currently have 60 students who have requested to graduate who are likely to be deemed ineligible due to CGPAs between 1.5 and 1.85. These same students would be eligible to elect to graduate with Bachelors' Degrees at FAS. We have many other students who have completed 20 credits and may have met all their degree requirements but have not requested to graduate because they are aware that they are ineligible under current policy. The Office of the Registrar proposes to search for these students over the summer months, assess whether they have met degree requirements and where applicable offer them the Bachelors degree option with November convocation. Many students who would otherwise never be eligible to graduate will graduate if we approve of this harmonization step..

We have called this urgent, off- schedule meeting of our Academic Affairs Committee so that we can consider this change to our degree requirements immediately. If approved, we will be able to put the language of this exception into the UTM calendar for the 2009-10 academic year. Many students are implicated by this change, therefore if we agree to harmonize, the sooner we introduce the new policy the better.

The proposed change in the calendar language under degree requirements is shown on the attached two documents. The identical wording appears on Page 24 of the Faculty of Arts and Science 2008-09 calendar.

Diane Crocker, Registrar and Director of Enrolment Management
Gage Averill, VP Academic and Dean

March 31, 2009



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The degree received depends upon the combination of programs a student completes and specific degree requirements. To qualify for an Honours degree, a student must meet the following requirements:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Obtain standing in at least 20.0 credits, meeting the following criteria:

- No more than 6.0 credits may be 100 level;
- At least 6.0 credits must be 300/400 level (no more than 1.0 300/400 level transfer credit may be counted);
- No more than 15.0 credits may have the same three-letter designator.

DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete the distribution requirement, which consists of at least 1.0 credit from each of the following divisions: Humanities, Sciences, Social Sciences.
- See [Distribution Requirements](#) for further explanation of what distribution requirements are. Each course in the calendar has a distribution assignment to help you select courses that fulfill these requirements.

GRADE REQUIREMENT

- Achieve a Cumulative GPA of 1.85 or more by the time of graduation. Students who meet all the requirements for the Honours BA/Honours BSc except for the GPA requirement may elect to graduate with a BA/BSc degree provided they are in Good Standing (i.e. CGPA is 1.50 or more).

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR AN HONOURS BA DEGREE:

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- o 1 Specialist (Arts) or
- o 1 Major (Arts) AND 1 Major (Arts or Science*) must include 12.0 distinct courses, or
- o 1 Major (Arts), 2 Minors (Arts or Science*) must include 12.0 distinct courses.

*When completing two Majors with one Science and one Arts, a student may choose to receive either an Honours BSc or an Honours BA degree. The default assignment on ROSI for such students is an Honours BSc. Students who choose to graduate with an Honours BA degree will need to notify the Office of the Registrar of their intention when requesting graduation.

NOTES

1. U of T Mississauga limits the number of courses that can be counted for more than one program. When completing a combination of programs, a student must complete at least 12.0 distinct courses that apply to the programs.
2. A maximum of three programs may be completed within a degree. The allowable program combinations are:
 1. two Majors AND one Minor; or
 2. two Specialists AND one Minor; or
 3. one Major AND one Specialist AND one Minor; or
 4. three Minors (please note that three Minors are not an option for students admitted 2000 and later).
3. Information Sources:
 1. Consult the academic advisors in the Office of the Registrar regarding degree requirements.
 2. Consult the departmental program advisors regarding specific program requirements.
 3. Exceptions to degree requirements may only be granted by petition through the Office of the Registrar. Departmental program advisors may only grant exceptions to program requirements that are not needed towards fulfilling degree requirements.



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PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR AN HONOURS BSc DEGREE:

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- 1 Specialist (Science), or
- 1 Major (Science) AND 1 Major (Arts or Science) must include 12.0 distinct courses, or
- 1 Major (Science) AND 2 Minors (Arts or Science) must include 12.0 distinct courses, or
- 1 Major (Arts) AND 2 Minors (both Science) must include 12.0 distinct courses.

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