At the request of SCUP, I am forwarding the following recommendations from the Undergraduate Curriculum Implementation Task Force.

**Recommendation 1: New WQB Graduation Requirements**

We recommend that the following University-wide graduation requirements be implemented for students admitted to SFU for the Fall 2006 (2006-3) semester:

- 6 credits of courses that foster writing abilities (W courses), including at least one course in the upper division, preferably within the student’s discipline;
- 6 credits of courses that foster quantitative abilities (Q courses);
- 24 credits of breadth, including:
  - 18* credits of Designated Breadth (DB), consisting of 6 credits in the Humanities, 6 credits in the Sciences and 6 credits in the Social Sciences; and
  - 6 credits of Undesignated Breadth (i.e., courses taken outside the student’s major program).

To fulfill these requirements, students must obtain a grade of C- or better in the courses in question.

*Programs may waive the requirement that their students take the DB courses in their areas. For instance, Biological Sciences may exempt its students from completing DB Science courses. In such cases, students would be required to replace the credits with Undesignated Breadth (UB) courses. In the example cited, Biological Sciences majors would replace the 6-credit Science DB requirement with an additional 6 credits of UB, for a total of 12 credits of DB (6 in the Humanities and 6 in the Social Sciences) and 12 credits of UB (courses outside their programs).

Note that these WQB requirements are **minimum** requirements; programs may set additional W, Q and/or B requirements for their students.

Students will be encouraged to take at least one W and one Q course within their first 30 credits at SFU and will be required to obtain a least a C- in at least one W and one Q course within their first 60 credits. Transfer students who have not received transfer credit for a W and/or Q course will be required to obtain at least a C- in at least one W and/or one Q course within their first 30 credit units at SFU.
Joint Majors, Double Majors, Majors with Required Minors, 2nd degrees

Students undertaking joint or double majors will be required to meet the same requirements as other students, but they will be required to meet them only once. Students seeking second degrees from SFU who have fulfilled the WQB requirements while earning their first degrees at SFU will not be required to fulfill additional WQB requirements for their second degrees.

The academic work of students who obtained a first degree from another institution or from SFU prior to the introduction of the WQB requirements will have to be assessed to determine WQB course credit.

Exemptions

It is possible that the completion of the full breadth requirement will prove unduly onerous for students in programs that permit few elective credits. In such cases, and in cases in which the requirements would otherwise jeopardize the academic integrity of the program, the program may petition SCUS for its students to be exempted from some portion of the breadth requirement.

Recommendation 2: New Admissions and Continuation Requirements Pertaining to English Competencies and Writing Skills

In order to “demonstrate a command of English sufficient to meet the demands of classroom instruction, written assignments and participation in tutorials and discussions” (p. 40, 2003-2004 Calendar), we recommend that, beginning with the 2006-3 intake, applicants to SFU be required to demonstrate their competence in English language skills in one of the following ways:

Direct Admission from Grade 12
(a) A grade of 86% (A) or higher in a course equivalent to (or more advanced than) English 12 (more advanced English courses would include Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate);
(b) A grade of 60% - 85% (C to B) in a course equivalent to (or more advanced than) English 12 plus a score of 4 or 5 on the essay portion of the Language Proficiency Index (LPI) or an equivalent score on an accepted language proficiency test;
(c) A score of 6 on the essay portion of the LPI or an equivalent score on an accepted language proficiency exam.

Continuation Requirement for Students Admitted with English 12 grades in the 60% - 69% Range
Applicants admitted on the basis of English 12 (or equivalent) grades in the 60%-69% range will be required to register in a Foundational Writing Skills (FWS) course within their first 30 credits at SFU and to complete it with a grade of C or better within their first 45 credits before being allowed to register in a W course. Students who fail to obtain a grade of C or better in an FWS course after attempting it a maximum of two times will be required to withdraw. Such students would have to re-apply for admission. They could be re-admitted if they established that they had acquired the necessary proficiency in English.

Enrolment Cap
We recommend that admissions requiring registration in an FWS course be limited to 500 students in an academic year. As a result, some students who meet the minimum English/Writing admission standard may not be admitted.
Admission by college or university transfer
We recommend the following admission requirements for college or university transfer students:

(a) Fulfillment of the requirements for direct admission from high school; or
(b) A grade of C- or better in a certified W course that is transferable to SFU.

International applicants
We do not recommend any changes to the admission standards for International applicants. International applicants may satisfy SFU’s English language competency requirement in one of several ways. Applicants may submit an acceptable IELTS score (or an equivalent score from another approved test of English language proficiency). Applicants admitted on the basis of their IELTS score will be “streamed” into W or Foundational Writing Skills courses on the basis of that score. Applicants admitted on the basis of a score earned on a different English language proficiency test (e.g., TOEFL, CAEL, etc.) will also be required to take the LPI or an equivalent language proficiency test before the conclusion of their first semester at SFU.

International students who score below 4 on the essay portion of the LPI, or who fail to obtain an acceptable score on an equivalent exam, will be required to withdraw from any W course in which they may have registered and to register instead in an appropriate program or pre-W course (which, depending on the student’s level of competence might be the English Bridge Program, the English Language and Culture Program or a Foundational Writing Skills course).

The Language Instruction Committee may make additional recommendations about admission, writing requirements and resources for International students.

Students with Disabilities, Diverse Qualifications and Programs for Mid-Career Adults
We do not recommend any changes in our current policies, as stated in the 2003-2004 Calendar.

Recommendation 3: New Admissions and Continuation Requirements Pertaining to Quantitative Skills

All students admitted to SFU should be adequately prepared to complete the quantitative aspects of their programs, including the new Q courses. To ensure that we meet this goal, we recommend improved admission standards pertaining to quantitative skills.

Direct admission from Grade 12
We recommend that, beginning in 2006-3, all applicants be required to demonstrate their competence in quantitative skills as a part of the admissions process by obtaining a grade of 60% (C) or higher in a course equivalent to Principles of Math 11 (or Applications of Math 12), or in a course equivalent to Principles of Math 12 (whichever is required for admission to their specific Faculty and/or Program).

Applicants who obtain math scores in the 60% - 69% range may be admitted, but will be required either to register directly in a Foundational Quantitative Skills (FQS) course or to take a diagnostic quantitative skills test within their first semester. The diagnostic test will contain modules equipped to assess the quantitative abilities needed for all types of Q courses. Admitted students who choose to take the diagnostic test and who score 70% or higher on the appropriate module will be eligible to register in an appropriate Q course (that is, a Q course with prerequisite skills assessed by the module). Those who score below 70% will be required to register in an appropriate Foundational Quantitative Skills course within their first 30 credits and to obtain a grade of C or better within their first 45 credit units before being eligible to register in a Q course. Students who fail to obtain a grade of C or better in an FQS course after a maximum of two attempts will be required to withdraw from SFU. Such students would have to re-apply for admission. They could be re-admitted if they established that they had acquired the necessary proficiency in quantitative skills.
Admission by college or university transfer
Students transferring from other post secondary institutions must either (a) meet the math requirements of students who are admitted directly from high school, or (b) obtain a grade of C- or better in a certified Q course that is transferable to SFU.

International applicants
International applicants may meet the Q admission requirement by fulfilling either the Grade 12 or college transfer entry standard.

Recommendation 4: The Creation of a Task Force or equivalent body to explore the establishment of a Student Learning Centre
We recommend that the Vice President, Academic establish a Task Force or comparable body to review existing University-wide student academic support services and structures and to make recommendations about the establishment of a Student Learning Centre.

Recommendation 5: Foundational Writing Skills Courses
We recommend the development of a set of new Foundational Writing Skills (FWS) courses for students admitted to SFU with low grades in English and/or low scores on a language proficiency test. Such courses would prepare students to read and write at a first-year university level. Although FWS courses may provide some remedial assistance, they would not be equivalent to English 12. Rather, they would establish a framework for uses of reading and writing that direct students toward such goals of university literacy as use of Standard English, accurate representation, critical assessment of sources, and the ability to construct and develop arguments. We would expect such courses to be designed in somewhat different ways for students with English as a first language and students with English as an alternative language.

We recommend that registration in the FWS courses be capped at 500 students per academic year. (Note that the limit of 500 is based on current enrolments and may change as enrolments rise.) This enrolment limit may result in the minimum English grade for admission being higher than 60% (Grade 12) or C (for college transfer).

We recommend that FWS courses be 3 credit courses, but that these credits be “additive” rather than “integral.” That is, students passing the courses would be awarded academic credit and their course grades would be included in the calculation of their GPAs. However, FWS credits would not count toward the number of credits required to graduate (usually 120).

We recommend that students required to take FWS courses must obtain a grade of C or higher in an FWS course before registering in a W course. Students should be allowed to repeat an FWS course only once. Following two unsuccessful attempts, students should be required to withdraw. Such students would have to re-apply for admission. They could be re-admitted if they established that they had acquired the necessary proficiency in English.

We recommend that tuition for FWS courses be charged at the Basic Tuition Fee rate.
**Recommendation 6: Foundational Quantitative Skills Courses**

We recommend that registration in FQS courses be limited to 500 students in an academic year. (Note that the limit of 500 is based on current enrolments and may change as enrolments rise.) We do **not** believe that this requirement is likely to function as an enrolment cap at the admissions level because statistical evidence suggests that fewer than 500 students per year would require an FQS course.

We recommend that FQS courses be 3 credit courses, but that these credits be “additive” rather than “integral.” That is, students passing the courses would be awarded academic credit and their course grades would be included in the calculation of their GPAs. However, FQS credits would not count toward the number of credits required to graduate (usually 120).

We recommend that students required to take FQS courses must obtain a grade of C or higher in an FQS course before registering in a Q course. Students should be allowed to repeat an FQS course only once. Following two unsuccessful attempts, students should be required to withdraw from SFU. Such students would have to re-apply for admission. They could be re-admitted if they established that they had acquired the necessary proficiency in quantitative skills.

We recommend that tuition for FQS courses be charged at the Basic Tuition Fee rate.