

OFFICE OF THE

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AND ASSOCIATE PROVOST
*As amended by
Senate 7 Jan 08*

MEMO

ATTENTION	SENATE
FROM	Bill Krane, Chair, Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies <i>W. Krane</i>
RE	Admission Requirements (SCUS 07-36A)
DATE	December 18, 2007

Based on discussion and a similar recommendation approved by SCUS, I recommend that the following motion be considered by Senate:

~~Motion~~ For Discussion

That Senate approve that optional BC Provincial examination results no longer be required for admission to the University for BC 12 students. Provincial examination results will be required for any subject where the examination is a mandatory requirement for high school graduation. If optional BC Provincial examinations are written, the results from them would be used only if they increased a student's admission average. If the mandatory requirements for high school graduation change, the University's admissions policy will be reviewed.

Background

The Canadian admission landscape changed significantly with the decision implemented last year by the BC Ministry of Education to eliminate mandatory BC Provincial examinations for graduation except for five subjects, which include English 12 (or alternative Language Arts 12). (See "At a Glance Requirements" attached for a complete list of graduation requirements.) In most other provincial jurisdictions, the role of final grades, which include provincial exam results, in the admissions process has changed since the time that they were first introduced. (Please see Appendix A for a list of selected universities and their provincial exam requirements.)

Rationale

The following factors should be taken into account in considering this motion:

1. If the motion is adopted, SFU will stay competitive with central Canadian and other BC universities in attracting and recruiting the best and the brightest

students. This policy change will also allow SFU to make unconditional offers at an earlier date.

2. Presently, almost all BC grade 12 students admitted to SFU are given admission offers prior to writing provincial exams based on self-reported or interim grades. Final marks are only used to revoke admission offers.
3. BC Transfer students from the colleges and university-colleges are admitted based on their college grades. Most colleges eliminated the requirement for optional BC 12 examinations last year.
4. Students from other provinces are admitted without the equivalents of BC grade 12 examinations.
5. BC 12 final grades arrive in August, making it all but impossible to effectively use the grades in our present admission process.

At a Glance Requirements - What You Need to Graduate

In order to graduate with a Dogwood, every student in the Graduation Program has to pass certain basic courses, like English, mathematics and science. The table below is an overview of what you need to graduate:

- 48 credits from required courses,
- 28 credits from elective courses, and
- 4 credits from Graduation Transitions.

Graduation requirements are introduced in your Planning 10 class. For more help, talk to your teacher or school counselor, and refer to the Grad Planner for more details.

REQUIRED COURSES:	
Subject Area	Minimum Credits
Planning 10	4
a Language Arts 10 ¹	4
a Language Arts 11	4
a Language Arts 12 ^{1,2}	4
a Mathematics 10 ¹	4
a Mathematics 11 or 12	4
a Fine Arts and/or Applied Skills 10, 11 or 12	4
Social Studies 10	4
a Social Studies 11 or 12 ¹	4
Science 10 ¹	4
a Science 11 or 12	4
Physical Education 10	4
	48 credits
ELECTIVE COURSES:	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits.	Minimum Credits
Additional Grade 10-12 credits*	28 credits
GRADUATION TRANSITIONS	
Students must earn 4 credits for Graduation Transitions	4 credits
OVERALL TOTAL:	80 credits
*Of the 80 credits for graduation, at least 16 must be at the Grade 12 level, including a Grade 12 Language Arts course. Others may be required or elective courses.	

¹ mandatory Provincial examination

² includes English 12

Appendix A – Survey of Selected Canadian Universities

Admissions Requirements – BC12 Provincial Exam

University	Provincial Exams required	Future Plans
University of Alberta	YES	dependent on BC Universities
University of British Columbia	YES	
University of Calgary	YES	dependent on BC Universities
Dalhousie University	NO	
University of Guelph	NO	Under review for next year
McGill University	NO, OPTIONAL	
Queens University	NO	
University of Toronto	No	
Trent University	NO, OPTIONAL	They do not use the BC12 provincial exam results unless they are higher than the course marks
University of Victoria	NO	
University of Waterloo	NO	
University of Western Ontario	YES	

19 December, 2007