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# MEMORANDUM

<b>ATTENTION</b>	Senate	<b>DATE</b>	January 15, 2025
<b>FROM</b>	Dilson Rassier, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Chair, SCUP	<b>PAGES</b>	1/9
<b>RE:</b>	Stream and Concentration Definition (SCUP 24-39)		

At its meeting on September 11, 2024, SCUP reviewed and approved the definition of the term concentration. At its meeting on January 8, 2025, SCUP reviewed and approved the definition of the term stream.

**Motion:** That Senate approve the addition of the term concentration and stream, as defined below, to the undergraduate credential definitions in the Academic Calendar, effective Fall 2025.

A **concentration** provides a depth of study in a specific area within a major and/or stream. It usually consists of a minimum of 12 upper division units, is in most cases not a program requirement, and has fewer unit requirements than a stream.

A **stream** is a core requirement within some majors. It represents the chosen route through the major and usually consists of lower and upper division courses. A stream is a program requirement where students may select a general program or a stream.

C: Jill Sutherland, Director, University Curriculum and Institutional Liaison, Office of the Provost



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MEMORANDUM

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ATTENTION	Senate Committee on University Priorities	DATE	November 8, 2024
FROM	Paul Kingsbury, Vice-Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Concentration and Stream Definitions (SCUS 24-93)		

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At its meeting on September 13, 2024, SCUP approved the following:

**Motion 1**

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the addition of the term concentration to undergraduate credential definitions in the Academic Calendar, effective Fall 2025.

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of November 7, 2024, gives rise to the following recommendation:

**Motion 2**

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the addition of the term stream to undergraduate credential definitions in the Academic Calendar, effective Fall 2025.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.



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**MEMORANDUM**

**ATTENTION** Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies      **DATE** November 7, 2024  
**FROM** Jill Sutherland, Director, University Curriculum      **PAGE** 1 of 4  
**RE:** Calendar Entry

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In Fall 2023 the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) formed a Terminology Working Group to explore the standardization of undergraduate program terminology. The priority was to define concentration and stream within undergraduate programming. Current utilization of these terms appears in the calendar as follows:

Concentration:

- Faculty of Applied Sciences (Computing Science, Mechatronic Systems Engineering)
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, French, Global Humanities, History, International Studies, Philosophy, Psychology)
- Beedie School of Business
- Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Interactive Arts and Technology)
- Faculty of Health Sciences (Bachelor of Science), FSCI (Biological Sciences, Kinesiology, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry)

Stream:

- Faculty of Communication, Art, and Technology (Art, Performance and Cinema Studies)
- Faculty of Environment (Physical Geography, Environmental Science, Resource and Environmental Management)
- Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences)

Developing definitions was an iterative process with proposed definitions discussed with SCUS allowing committee members to provide feedback prior to a final definition being proposed. The following definition was approved at SCUS on August 1, 2024 and at SCUP on September 11, 2024:

A **concentration** provides a depth of study in a specific area within a major and/or stream. It usually consists of a minimum of 12 upper division units, is in most cases not a program requirement, and has fewer unit requirements than a stream.

At its meeting on September 11, 2024, SCUP requested modifications to the definition of a stream, which are captured in the below motion:

**Motion:** That SCUS approve and recommend to the Senate Committee on University Priorities the addition of the term stream to undergraduate credential definitions as follows:

A **stream** is a core requirement within some majors. It represents the chosen route through the major and usually consists of lower and upper division courses. A stream is a program requirement where students may select a general program or a stream.

In September 2024, the BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills issued revised degree criteria guidelines which include a definition of a concentration for the first time. Their definition, below, aligns with ours:

**Concentration:** A wide range of secondary specializations characterized by varying names, purposes, number of credits and recognition, such as stream, focus, option, track, etc.

**Undergraduate concentration:** A secondary specialization within the primary specialization of the degree (e.g., BSc in Geography with a Concentration in Resource Management). Normally, the range for a concentration is 12-15 upper-level credits.

Recognizing the impact that defining Concentrations and Streams may have on existing programs, it is recommended that each program effected consider revising their program language to align with the new definitions. To support this work the UCIL Office has provided a chart of effected programs, including the required paperwork to facilitate the change. Paperwork will be sent to appropriate Associate Deans upon approval of the stream definition.

Working Group Members: Arne Eigenfeldt (FCAT), Nancy Hawkins (FSCI), Paul Kingsbury (FENV), Tom Nault (Registrar), Kris Nordgren (Student Services), Melek Ortabasi (FASS), Amanda Payaky (Provost's Office), Jill Sutherland (Provost's Office), Robert Williamson (EDUC)

## Program Changes Recommended

Existing programs with a concentration or a stream			
Faculty	Program	Concentration or Stream (current)	Program Change Required?
Applied Sciences	Computing Science	Concentration	No (note 1)
	Mechatronic Systems Engineering	Concentration	No (note 2)
Arts and Social Sciences	Economics	Concentration	No (note 3)
	French	Concentration	Memo needed – should be a stream (note 4)
	Global Humanities	Concentration	No (note 5)
	History	Concentration	No (note 6)
	International Studies	Concentration	Memo needed – should be a stream (note 7)
	Philosophy	Concentration	No (note 8)
	Psychology, Applied Behaviour Analysis	Concentration	Program change needed – should be a stream or individual program (note 9)
Beedie	Business	Concentration	Maybe – would need a program change (note 10)
Communication, Art and Technology	Interactive Arts & Tech	Concentration	Mostly No (note 11)
	Art, Performance & Cinema Studies	Stream	No (note 12)
Science	Biological Sciences	Concentration	Program change – should be a stream (note 13)
	Earth Sciences	Stream	No (note 14)
	Kinesiology	Concentration	Program change – should be a stream (note 15)
	Molecular Biology & Biochemistry	Concentration	Memo needed – should be a stream (note 16)
Health Science	BSc	Concentration	Memo needed – should be a stream (note 17)
Environment	Physical Geography	Stream	No (note 18)
	Environmental Science	Stream	No (note 19)
	Resource & Environmental Management	Stream	Mostly No (note 20)

Red = program changes are recommended

Orange = likely needs wording changes

Purple = may need small changes

Green = no changes required

Notes:

1. Computing Science language around concentrations includes the words “students may complete one or more...”. For a BA, a concentration of 15 units in a FASS department is required.
2. MSE Agritech concentration is optional (15 units + 2 additional courses).
3. Economics concentration in Economic Data Analysis is optional (6 required, 2 must be ECON).
4. French concentration for Prospective Teachers is optional but reads more like a stream; only mentioned once and could be corrected with a memo.
5. Global Humanities concentrations: “students in the major have the OPTION” (20+ units).
6. History concentrations: “students may qualify for this concentration by completing” (20+ units).
7. International Studies concentrations need to be renamed as streams – selecting one is mandatory. Change can be done with a memo requesting “concentration” be replaced with “stream” in 7 places: Statement that student must select one and above each of the three LD and UD sections.
8. Philosophy concentration in Law and Philosophy is optional (30+ units).
9. Psychology concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis Major has its own Calendar entry, should remove the word Concentration. Could be called a stream, or realistically be its own program.
10. Business reads like a stream but since it is a special case as it is on parchment it would be difficult to change. Concentrations also vary in size (4-6 courses).
11. IAT concentrations are all optional, and most are over 12 units. One (Design and Development for Web and Mobile) is 11 units though.
12. Art/Performance/Cinema Studies are well-articulated paths through a student’s degree.
13. BISC reads as stream, it is required and provides a path through specifically upper-div courses.
14. EASC is correct as a stream, minimum 45 units.
15. Kinesiology, students choose either General or Active Health and Rehabilitation, so should be a stream.
16. MBB could be appropriate as Concentration since it is optional; however, the amount of courses needed is large (37+ units). Would recommend making “General” and “Infection and Immunity” streams instead.
17. FHS is clearly a stream, but could use a minor wording update to indicate that students must choose one or the other and/or create a “General” stream. Wording right now is vague and does not provide directions for students choosing courses.
18. Physical Geography is clear that students must choose one stream.
19. Environmental Science is clear that students must choose one stream.
20. REM streams are clearly streams; however, perhaps they could add language stating “students must choose a stream”. Also, they do not have a general stream.



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MEMORANDUM

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ATTENTION	Senate Committee on University Priorities	DATE	August 2, 2024
FROM	Peter Hall, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Concentration and Stream Definitions (SCUS 24-74/75)		

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Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of August 1, 2024, gives rise to the following recommendation:

**Motion 1**

That SCUP approves the addition of the term concentration to undergraduate credential definitions.

**Motion 2**

That SCUP approves the addition of the term stream to undergraduate credential definitions.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.



OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, LEARNING AND TEACHING

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**MEMORANDUM**

**ATTENTION** Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies      **DATE** June 20 2024  
**FROM** Jill Sutherland, Director, University Curriculum      **PAGE** 1 of 2  
**RE:** Calendar Entry

In Fall 2023 the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) formed a Terminology Working Group to explore the standardization of undergraduate program terminology. The priority was to define concentration and stream within undergraduate programming. Current utilization of these terms appears in the calendar as follows:

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**Stream:**

- Faculty of Communication, Art, and Technology (Art, Performance and Cinema Studies)
- Faculty of Environment (Physical Geography, Environmental Science, Resource and Environmental Management)
- Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences)

Developing definitions has been an iterative process with proposed definitions discussed with SCUS allowing committee members to provide feedback prior to a final definition being proposed. The terminology working group requests that SCUS consider the below requests.

**Motion One:** That SCUS approve and recommend to the Senate Committee on University Priorities the addition of the term concentration to undergraduate credential definitions as follows:

A **concentration** provides a depth of study in a specific area within your major and/or stream. It usually consists of a minimum of 12 upper division units, is in most cases not a program requirement, and has fewer unit requirements than a stream.



**Motion Two:** That SCUS approve and recommend to the Senate Committee on University Priorities the addition of the term stream to undergraduate credential definitions as follows:

A **stream** is a core requirement within your Major. It represents the chosen route through the Major and usually consists of lower and upper division courses. A stream is a program requirement where students may select a general program or a stream.

Working Group Members: Arne Eigenfeldt (FCAT), Nancy Hawkins (FSCI), Paul Kingsbury (FENV), Tom Nault (Registrar), Kris Nordgren (Student Services), Melek Ortabasi (FASS), Amanda Payaky (Provost's Office), Jill Sutherland (Provost's Office), Robert Williamson (EDUC)