



School of Engineering Science and ESSS Semesterly Meeting - SU22

Meeting Date:

June 27th, 2022

In Attendance (Online):

Dr. Michael Sjoerdsma - Director, School of Engineering Science

Boris Perdija - ESSS President

Colton Koop - ESSS VP Academic

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Opening Statement	2
Brief Note	2
Rules for Graduating on a Co-op Term	3
Status of Mandatory Co-op's	3
Additional ESD Electives:	4
7-year limit & Minimum Courseload Policy	5
Long-Term ENSC Planning Resources	6
Concentration Planning Resource Updates	6
Standardized Grade Scale / Course Weighting	7
Additional ENSC Course Offerings	7
Closing Remarks:	8

Opening Statement

The Engineering Science Student Society and the Department of Engineering Science are working hard to accommodate all ENSC students to the best of their ability. We have been in contact with each other these past few weeks to make sure everyone is supported as we return back to a sense of normality akin to times before the pandemic. I would like to thank everyone who sent in their feedback as it provides us with the opportunity to work towards solutions.

Brief Note

- All decisions were made while considering academic integrity, feasibility, and student feedback.
- Anything not mentioned here is still being considered within the department and faculty.

Rules for Graduating on a Co-op Term

What are the rules for graduating on a co-op term? Is there any opportunity for lenience?

The ability to graduate on a co-op term or the chances of being provided leniency to do so have been murky to many students in the Engineering Science body. **As of now, graduating on a co-op semester is formally unallowed** through policies dictated by the co-op office. Dr. Sjoerdsma has further clarified that **co-op has its own accreditation body** and, because of this, **FAS would have little say in providing students leniency** if they decide to attempt to graduate on a co-op term.

With all that said, the future prospects of allowing this are uncertain and FAS is in favor of co-op loosening these requirements in the future. For now, the ESSS recommends that students avoid finishing on a co-op term if at all possible and speak with their coop coordinator as early as they can if they anticipate being in this situation.

Status of Mandatory Co-op's

What is the status of mandatory / non-mandatory coop's?

The faculty of engineering has looked into numerous different options between maintaining the current co-op requirement, reducing the number of co-op semesters, or removing the mandatory co-op requirement entirely. Members in the faculty of engineering are divided with some being keen on making it optional, and others sticking by with the thought that it should be mandatory.

Interestingly, as co-op accreditation is granted only after 1 year of paid employment, reducing the number of required co-op semesters would force the department to rename "co-op" as it is a protected term. This will pose an additional administrative issue if FAS decided to go ahead with this change.

Due to the fact that the next accreditation visit will be in June 2024, the faculty of engineering is aiming to maintain a more conservative stance on the co-op requirement. Continued discussions and liberal changes will likely be considered after this date. Until then, **students should expect that the mandatory co-op policy will likely remain in place for the next few semesters.**

Additional ESD Electives:

Has there been any progress made to include more courses from other departments as ESD electives? There are a number of CMPT classes or newly created SEE classes that students would like to take as ESDs.

The process of adding additional ESD electives for the various concentrations has proven to be an arduous process due to various accreditation requirements. Specifically, the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) dictates the minimum requirements that need to be met in order for SFU's engineering program to remain accredited. Presently, the courses we take in our program are placed in various determined Academic Unit (AU) categories, and all AU categories must be fulfilled in order to graduate in engineering. Additionally, CEAB dictates that a certain number of courses need to be taught by a P. Eng. Due to these constraints, the pool of approved ESD electives for each concentration becomes limited, and some concentrations end up being more harshly punished than others. Computer Engineering in particular has been designed to have access to a large number of ESD electives, and other options may simply not be meeting their AU requirements to allow them to take more electives.

With regards to additional CMPT ESDs, it is difficult for these courses to be approved due to the fact that they are not taught by professional engineers. On the other hand, MSE and SEE courses should (in theory) be easier to approve due to the fact that they are taught by professors that hold a P. Eng. designation. With that said, **SEE is still in the process of being accredited by CEAB and ENSC will not consider pre-approving any SEE courses as ESD electives until after accreditation.** Students are recommended to continue attempting to get waivers to take these courses, but they should be aware that their approval is unlikely.

With all this, **due to the strict requirements set forth by CEAB, FAS is limited in their ability to add additional ESD electives and, presently, it does not appear that they are actively looking into more ESD electives outside of ENSC.** They are, however, open to considering them if they meet the accreditation requirements.

Michael Sjoerdsma has requested that students come up with examples of SEE and MSE classes that they would like to see approved. If you had any that interested you in particular, please get in touch with Colton Koop at academic@esss.ca where this will ideally be brought up at the next UCC meeting.

7-year limit & Minimum Courseload Policy

What is the status of the 7-year limit or minimum course load policy? What does engineering science predict to happen?

As many students might be aware, the faculty of Engineering Science has proposed and planned to go ahead with a 7-year limit for this program. This has caused considerable anxiety amongst students - especially among those who had not previously planned to finish within 7 years or those who are required to take a lighter course load to work at the same time. The reasoning behind this limit was to reduce administrative work when compared to a minimum credit per semester policy.

This proposal has been passed along to the university and its Senate where it has been rejected due to numerous concerns. **As of now, there is no 7-year limit and no credit per semester limit** essentially giving students the freedom to take as few courses per semester as they wish. Additionally, the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) has no policy surrounding a minimum course load limit.

This policy may return to discussion within the faculty, but for now, nothing is official.

Long-Term ENSC Planning Resources

Is it possible for the faculty to post and continuously update a list of planned to-run courses for the next 6 (or so) semesters? Other departments (such as CS, physics, and math) have web pages clearly projecting future course offerings to help students plan long term.

With certain classes being removed from the curriculum with minimal warning, new courses being made mandatory, and course conflicts affecting nearly everyone at some point, FAS is aware that a two-year plan would ideally help alleviate some of these issues.

With that, **the engineering department is presently working on a two-year plan for students in engineering which is projected to be finalized by the end of the semester.** Additionally, this resource will also let students know about courses that are offered multiple times in a year (something that is neglected in the current course navigator).

Concentration Planning Resource Updates

When will the official concentration planning resources be updated to reflect changes in our curriculum?

The faculty of applied sciences was made aware of a number of outdated pieces of information across various SFU websites at this meeting. Dr. Sjoerdsma has noted this down and has relayed the information to FAS. Since then, there has been significant updates made to the concentration planning resources. We ask that students get in touch with our VP academic, Colton Koop, if they see any additional discrepancies.

Standardized Grade Scale / Course Weighting

Would ENSC consider having a standard/recommended grade scale and course weighting guidelines?

ENSC provides its instructors a sizeable degree of autonomy to teach as they see fit provided that the learning outcomes are not egregiously poor. As a result, **the school of engineering is not intending to create a standard grade scale** or a system that sets a limit on how much midterms, finals, or assignments are worth. With that said, they will continue to monitor final grade distributions and look out for any exceptional circumstances.

If you have any concerns or suggestions, Dr. Sjoerdsma recommends bringing it up with the faculty as they may be persuaded by situations where you think - for example - having project components be weighted more would improve learning outcomes

Additional ENSC Course Offerings

Are there any plans to offer additional offerings of certain courses?

Due to the nature of most courses being offered only once a year, the prospect of additional offerings is a great one. As of now, a new lecturer has just been hired and is planned to start teaching in the fall. With that said, as one faculty member is retiring and another is leaving for a year, any capacity to build up has unfortunately been set back. **The engineering faculty would love to expand its teaching bandwidth but due to the constrained curriculum and lack of resources, students should expect no additional course offerings when compared to the norm.**

Closing Remarks:

As a closing note, I would like to thank you for making it this far and reading this report. The Engineering Science Student Society truly appreciates all of the submissions made by our students and we are happy to have been able to bring them up with the acting director. Your voice can make a difference in the faculty and we appreciate your efforts to make our department as great as it can be.

If there are any further concerns you have that were not discussed in this report or you would like further details on a section, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@esss.ca. Additionally, if this report did not address your specific concern, and your concern is time-sensitive, I encourage you to reach out to Dr. Sjeordsma directly and he will assist you with your specific case.

Please be aware that the next meeting with the director will occur next semester and I will be releasing another survey for students to submit their concerns in September.

Once again, thank you all for your submissions and for reading this report. The ESSS is proud to represent you in all aspects of the Engineering Science Program. We wish you the best for the rest of your semester.

Sincerely,
Boris Perdija