

PROPOSAL FOR EXCEPTION TO SENATE POLICY 2 – PROGRAM BALANCE

1) Program Name:

Two-year Post-baccalaureate Degree Program (PLAB), School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP)

2) Rationale for Request:

The two-year PLAB post-baccalaureate degree program was designed to respond to the demand for a second-degree program in Planning with an applied focus, combined with the Ministry's desire to develop study continuation program to produce professionally accredited planners. **Students with another undergraduate degree** have the opportunity to complete the program in two years and receive a professional Planning degree. The program was first accredited by the Canadian Institutes of Planners (CIP) in 2005.

The core of the PLAB program is identical to the third and fourth years of the four-year Bachelor degree program (PLAN) program at SURP. However, to meet the professional accreditation requirement related to the functional and enabling competencies, several adjustments to the rest of the curriculum had to be made. First, it is expected that students would have taken a significant number of courses during their previous undergraduate studies, which would qualify as Professionally-related/ Open Electives courses AND Liberal Studies courses, and satisfy the objectives of section 4.4.4 of Policy 2 (Provision of multiple curriculum opportunities) and Section 5.2 of policy 2 (Open Electives: provides students with the opportunity....to choose degree level courses outside their core). At the time of the inception of the program, the academic standards committee (ASC) recommended that **by virtue of the previous degree, a student would have met these requirements**. We argue that duplicating those similar courses would be counter-productive. As a result, the approved curriculum only includes courses that can be identified as "core studies" (required and core electives). This approach allows us to introduce and reinforce topics and skills related to all functional and enabling competencies required by the Professional Accreditation Board (PSB).

Furthermore, to meet the accreditation-related competency standards, students must successfully pass CVUP100 (Foundations of Planning; offered through Chang School) in order to be admitted to the PLAB program. Students are further required to take an economics course (ECN104) in their first semester and an ecology course (PLG240) in their second semester.

A change to the current balance of the PLAB program would significantly impact the programs professional accreditation (PSB) and SURP's vision "to provide excellence in planning education that prepares graduates to contribute as leaders in the community and the profession". The current accreditation (for a 5-year period) was secured in 2020. We

have attached our submission to the PSB (PSB Accreditation Self Study 2020) with this application.

3) Example of Similar Programs:

This is a unique program in Canada and no comparison exists.

4) Variation from Senate Policy:

The current program requirements (that we propose to keep) are summarized below:

2-Year PLAB Program Curriculum and Structure		
1 st Year		
1 st Semester	Required Courses	ECN 104 Intro Microeconomics PLG 500 Advanced Planning Theory PLG 510 Planning Law I PLG 520 Land Use Planning Studio II PLG 530 Field Research Project I (This course has a weight of 0.50)
	Elective(s)	Core
2 nd Semester	Required Courses	PLG 240 Applied Ecology for Urban Planners PLG 600 Planning Research Design PLG 610 Planning Law II PLG 620 Advanced Planning Studio I (Client-based)
	Elective(s)	Core
2 nd Year		
3 rd Semester	Required Courses	PLG 710 Municipal Finance for Planners PLG 720 Advanced Planning Studio II (Client-based) PLG 730 Field Research Project II (This course has a weight of 0.50)
	Elective(s)	Two (2) Core
4 th Semester	Required Courses	PLG 800 Planning Practice and Ethics PLG 810 Planning Administration and Implementation PLG 830 Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation
	Elective(s)	Two (2) Core

Differences between Senate Policy 2 and current curriculum (that we propose to keep) are summarized below:

	Senate Policy 2: Expected Range (%)	# Courses in Program	% Courses in Program
Core Studies (required + core elective)	60-75	20 (14 required + 6 core electives)	100
Open Electives	10-25	0	0
Liberal Studies	15-20	0	0

Total	100		100
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5) Request for Exception:

Based on the above rationale, The School of Urban and Regional Planning is requesting a program balance exception to Policy 2 (no open elective and no Liberal Studies), and wishes to keep the current curriculum for the two-year post baccalaureate (PLAB) degree unchanged.

Thank you for your consideration.



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Attachment: PSB Accreditation Self Study 2020

Undergraduate Course Changes: Approvals and Consultations (AAC)

To be submitted for Category 2, Category 3, and Major changes

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT INITIATING THE COURSE CHANGE: _____

List the courses that following approvals, consultations and additional information refers to: i.e. HST 508, HST 405.

1. LIBRARY CONSULTATION YES NO

Many types of course/program changes have implications for Library resources. In such cases, consultation with the subject librarian is to take place before a course change form is submitted.

1a. Are there serious deficiencies in current Library resources available to support this change? ☐ ☐

1b. If so, how will these be rectified? _____

Name of subject area librarian _____ Date(s) of consultation _____

2. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES REQUIRED? YES NO

2a. Are additional resources (e.g., faculty, space, technology) required to implement and sustain the proposed changes ☐ ☐

2b. If yes, specify course(s) requiring the resources _____

2c. Have you consulted with the University Planning Office? ☐ ☐

3. CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES AFFECTED? YES NO

3a. Is there a Chang School Offering of the course(s)? ☐ ☐

3b. Are any Chang School courses/certificate programs affected by this change? ☐ ☐

3c. If yes, specify course/certificate program affected and obtain Chang School approval: _____

4. MINORS AFFECTED? YES NO

4a. Are any Minors affected by this change? ☐ ☐

4b. If yes, specify course and obtain the approval of the Program that oversees the Minor: _____

5. CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE CONSULTATION YES NO

5a. Curriculum Advising and Undergraduate Publications for Category 2, Category 3, and Major changes ☐ ☐

5b. Academic Standards Committee for Category 3 and Major changes ☐ ☐

6. DELETION OF REQUIRED COURSE TAUGHT OUTSIDE PROGRAM DEPARTMENT YES NO

6a. Are you deleting a required course in your program's curriculum that is taught by another Teaching Department? ☐ ☐

6b. If yes, you will need to submit the [AAC Supplementary Form](#) with approval of the Teaching Department's Council and Dean.

7. APPROVALS AND SIGNATURES

- All Category 2, Category 3 and Major changes require the approval of the Teaching Department, their Department/School Council and their Dean. The approval of other Program Departments, their Department/School Council and their Dean may also be required.
- Approval by the Chang School is required only if the proposed changes directly affect Chang School offerings or the changes are initiated by The Chang School.
- An approval signature means that the signing party has been informed of the change and accepts the change.

		Name	Signature	Date
Teaching Department	Department/School			
	Department/School Council Approval Date			
	Chair/Director		<i>Penelope Robinson</i>	
	Dean		<i>M. H. L.</i>	Oct. 5, 2021
Program Department	Department/School			
	Department/School Council Approval			
	Chair/Director		<i>Penelope Robinson</i>	
	Dean		<i>M. H. L.</i>	Oct. 5, 2021
CE	CE Council Approval		<i>M. H. L.</i>	
	CE Program Director Approval			
	Dean			

UNDERGRADUATE SIGNIFICANT COURSE CHANGE SUMMARY FORM (CCS)

Use only for course additions, deletions, and changes that required signatures on the *Approvals and Consultations (AAC) Form*.

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT INITIATING THE COURSE CHANGE: _____

DATE of SUBMISSION: October 2021

Course Code/ Number	Course Title	Nature of Change						Identify Change (i.e., add to Required- Group 1)	Program(s) / School(s) / Department(s) / continuing education affected by and informed of change	Implementation Date			
		New Course (Y/N)	Existing Courses Check one ✓			Check one ✓							
			Re-position	Addition	Deletion	Required	Elective						