

## PROPOSAL FOR EXCEPTION TO SENATE POLICY 2 – PROGRAM BALANCE

### 1) Program Name:

Two-year Post-Diploma Degree Completion Program (PLAD), School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP)

### 2) Rationale for Request:

The two-year PLAD post-diploma degree completion program was created in response to two external factors. The first was a policy direction from the Province of Ontario to create new articulation programs between the community colleges and universities in the Province. These programs would provide a clear route for college students to attain admission (transfer) to university undergraduate degree programs. The second factor was a request by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Canadian Institute of Planners to create a well-defined path for diploma holders from accredited planning technician programs to move to an undergraduate degree award in planning. Both professional institutes wished to establish the completed four-year university degree award as the base criteria for eligibility for membership in the Institutes.

PLAD students enter into the third year of the four-year undergraduate program. To be considered, **students must have completed the Urban and Regional Planning Technician-GIS Diploma from Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology, or the GIS and Urban Planning Diploma from Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology.**

To meet the professional accreditation requirement related to the functional and enabling competencies, several adjustments to the four-year curriculum had to be made. First, it is expected that students would have taken a significant number of courses during their previous diploma studies, which would qualify as Professionally-related/ Open Electives 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).

However, in recognition of the needs “to develop students’ capacity to understand and critically appraise the social, cultural, natural, and physical context in which they will work as a professional and live as an educated citizen” (Section 5.3 in Policy 2) and an acknowledgement of the lack of opportunities to complete relevant course work in a community-college degree program, the students are required to complete similar number of Liberal Studies courses within a two-year period, when compared to our four-year PLAN program, increasing their proportional representation in the overall curriculum.

As a result, the approved curriculum only includes courses that can be identified as “core studies” (required and core electives) and Liberal Studies.

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 PLAD program. Students are further required to take an economics course (ECN104) in their first semester, an ecology course (PLG240) in their second semester, and a Senior Planning Project Course (PLG805) that emphasizes critical thinking and analysis. As a result, the overall course load of this program is higher than our four-year program (23 courses in two years, compared to 20 courses for PLAN students). 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), while also allowing opportunities to improve student capacity with regard to critical thinking and writing.

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. **Any change would have to also agreed upon with the colleges, and the articulation documents would have to be revisited.**

### 3) Example of Similar Programs:

This is a unique Urban Planning 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 PLAD Program Curriculum and Structure		
1 <sup>st</sup> Year		
1 <sup>st</sup> 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)	Two (2) Liberal Studies
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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)	Liberal Studies Professional
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year		

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Semester</b>	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)	Liberal Studies Professional
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Semester</b>	Required Courses	PLG 805 Senior Planning Project PLG 800 Planning Practice and Ethics PLG 810 Planning Administration and Implementation PLG 830 Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation
	Elective(s)	Liberal Studies Professional

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	18 (15 required + 3 core electives)	78
Open Electives	10-25	0	0
Liberal Studies	15-20	5	22
Total	100		100

##### 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 wishes to keep the current curriculum for the two-year post degree Completion (PLAD) degree unchanged.

Thank you for your consideration.



Dr. Pamela Robinson MCIP RPP  
Director and Professor, School of Urban and Regional Planning  
Ryerson University  
416-979-5000, ex. 556762  
[pamela.robinson@ryerson.ca](mailto:pamela.robinson@ryerson.ca)

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
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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? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO

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

Name of subject area librarian \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) of consultation \_\_\_\_\_

2. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES REQUIRED?	YES	NO
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2a. Are additional resources (e.g., faculty, space, technology) required to implement and sustain the proposed changes ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO

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

2c. Have you consulted with the University Planning Office? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO

3. CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES AFFECTED?	YES	NO
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3a. Is there a Chang School Offering of the course(s)? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO

3b. Are any Chang School courses/certificate programs affected by this change? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO

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

4. MINORS AFFECTED?	YES	NO
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4a. Are any Minors affected by this change? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO

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
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5a. Curriculum Advising and Undergraduate Publications for Category 2, Category 3, and Major changes ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO

5b. Academic Standards Committee for Category 3 and Major changes ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO

6. DELETION OF REQUIRED COURSE TAUGHT OUTSIDE PROGRAM DEPARTMENT	YES	NO
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6a. Are you deleting a required course in your program's curriculum that is taught by another Teaching Department? ..... ☐ YES ☐ NO

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