



20 April 2023

**From: UBC Okanagan Senate Academic Policy Committee (the “Committee”)**

**Re: Requirements to Receive a Degree, Diploma or Academic-Credit Certificate (50% Rule)**

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At its 7 October 2022 meeting, the Committee considered changes to a University-wide policy proposed by the UBC-O Faculty of Management. The Committee voted to circulate the proposal to interested parties at UBC-O for consultation.

Please provide your feedback on the following proposal no later than 30 May 2023 via the survey link provided.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Jan Cioe, Chair  
Senate Academic Policy Committee

Okanagan Senate Academic Policy Committee

September 1, 2022

**Re: Request to modify a campus-wide policy**

Chair of the Academic Policy Committee (Dr. Jan Cioe), on behalf of the Faculty of Management, I would like to request that the Academic Policy Committee consider modifying the Campus-Wide Policy, “Requirements to Receive a Degree, Diploma or Academic-Credit Certificate” (<https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,297,0,0>).

The current version states,

The requirements for degrees, diplomas and academic-credit certificates are described in the faculty and school entries. Except where the requirements of a particular degree, diploma or academic-credit certificate program specifically state otherwise, a student must:

1. satisfy all the program requirements by completing studies either at UBC or elsewhere;
2. satisfy at least 50% of the credits required for the program while registered in the program; and
3. for undergraduate programs, complete upper-division UBC credits to satisfy at least 50% of the credits required by point (2) above.

Our proposed modification is,

The requirements for degrees, diplomas and academic-credit certificates are described in the faculty and school entries. Except where the requirements of a particular degree, diploma or academic-credit certificate program specifically state otherwise, a student must:

1. satisfy all the program requirements by completing studies either at UBC or elsewhere;
2. satisfy at least 50% of the credits required for the program while registered **at UBC in the program**;  
and
3. for undergraduate programs, complete upper-division UBC credits to satisfy at least 50% of the credits required by point (2) above.

## Rationale

The Faculty of Management finds the current policy, requiring 50% of the credits to be earned while IN THE DEGREE program, to be incredibly limiting for students who transfer from one UBC program to another (in particular, into the BMGT program).

We have identified 3-4 students per year who were originally registered in the BA-O, BSc-O or other UBC program, and decided after their second year to transfer to the BMGT program. In most cases those students appear to be “proactively” registering in MGMT courses or other BMGT course requirements while they are still a BA, BSc (or other) student. This behaviour is quite rational – the students are “testing the water” while they wait to be admitted to the BMGT program. If students do the formal degree transition (BA to BMGT for instance) any later than their 2<sup>nd</sup> year, they invariably get caught by the current 50% degree requirement.

This issue may be unique to the BMGT program, we can only speak from our experience. The BMGT program has broad first-year requirements including 24-credits of course work outside MGMT<sup>1</sup> plus 6-credits of MGMT. The BMGT program requires students to complete non-MGMT electives (at least 27-credits of non-MGMT) and encourages them to explore non-MGMT topics by allowing up to an additional 15-credits of non-MGMT course work. Therefore, a BMGT graduate could have up to 66-credits of non-MGMT course work upon graduation<sup>2</sup>. An internal transfer student can commonly complete most of the non-MGMT credits prior to being admitted to the BMGT program.

The MGMT courses required for the BMGT degree are also open to all students across campus if certain course prerequisites are met. Internal transfer students have commonly completed at least 6 to 12-credits of MGMT course work before applying to transfer to the BMGT degree.

An internal transfer student who completes non-MGMT courses and MGMT courses while registered in another program will, in most cases, be taking those courses alongside BMGT students. This is not an issue of course-equivalence, the internal transfer students have taken the same courses with the same course assessments as BMGT students.

Students who have completed all the BMGT degree requirements but do not meet the current 50% requirement to be eligible to graduate are required to complete additional courses which incurs additional financial and time costs for the student.

UBC has stated ten goals as part of our plan to achieve our latest strategic plan (<https://strategicplan.ubc.ca/foundations-of-the-plan/ten-goals/>). The change we are requesting is perfectly aligned with Goal 9, “Achieve agility in academic support and administration through thoughtful systemic change and simplification.”

Changing the 50% rule as we have proposed does not change the rigour of the BMGT program or any other program in our opinion. Each program would retain their current admission standards, their current required courses, and their current total credits required.

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<sup>1</sup> 6-credits of ECON, 3-credits of each of ENGL, MATH, STAT, and PSYO, 6-credits of electives

<sup>2</sup> 24-credits of non-MGMT required course work plus 27-credits of non-MGMT electives required plus 15-credits of non-MGMT electives optional

Reviewing our Canadian peer institution requirements, the following universities require students to have completed 50% (or less) of the degree credits while at the institution with no additional restriction that those credits be earned while registered in the degree:

- University of Calgary (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-12.html>)
- Dalhousie University (<https://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=117&chapterid=7302&topicgroupid=32178&loaduseredit=False>)
- McMaster University (<https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=44&navoid=9020>)
- University of Toronto (<https://artsci.calendar.utoronto.ca/bcom-requirements>)
- University of Waterloo (<http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/page/Acad-Regs-Common-Degree-Requirements>)
- Western University ([https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/registration\\_progression\\_grad/graduation.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/graduation.pdf))
- University of Victoria (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/advising/choose-plan/degree-basics/index.php>)
- Simon Fraser University (<https://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2022/fall/programs/general-studies/bachelor-of-general-studies.html>)

Based on the review of our peer institutions and trying to provide more agile and less expensive routes to graduation, while maintaining the existing degree requirements for undergraduate degrees, we request that the UBC Okanagan Senate please consider our request to modify the Campus-Wide Policy, “Requirements to Receive a Degree, Diploma or Academic-Credit Certificate”.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Sandy Hilton, Academic Lead for the BMGT Program ([sandy.hilton@ubc.ca](mailto:sandy.hilton@ubc.ca)).