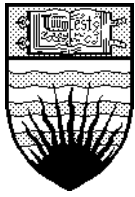# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SENATE POLICY: O-131

OKANAGAN SENATE
c/o Enrolment Services
2016 - 1874 East Mall
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6T 1Z1

Number & Title

O-131: *Digital Assessment Tools*

Effective Date:

September 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020
Extended to August 31, 2021 (Senate Minutes October 29, 2020)

Approval Date:

July 2020 (anticipated)

Review Date:

The policy will be reviewed by the *responsible committee* throughout the duration of the policy.

Responsible Committee:

Okanagan Senate Academic Policy

Authority:

University Act, S. 37(1)

"The academic governance of the university is vested in the senate and it has the following powers:

> *… (d) to determine the conditions under which candidates must be received for examination, to appoint examiners and to determine the conduct and results of all examinations.*

Purpose and Goals:

This policy is designed to:

1)   Provide a degree of financial protection for students with respect to *Digital Assessment Tools*.
2)   Set a cap on compulsory, digital, non-tuition, non-textbook assessment costs incurred by students for an individual course.
3)   Set a cap on the overall percentage *Digital Assessment Tools* can play in students' grade breakdowns for an individual course.
4)   Provide a framework for an eventual permanent *Digital Assessment Tools* policy.

Applicability:

1) This policy is applicable to compulsory, *digital*, non-tuition, non-textbook assessment costs, for which the student purchases access to a digital platform for a set period of time and cannot resell access to the platform.

2) This policy is applicable to all UBC Okanagan Winter 2020 Term 1 undergraduate and graduate courses, *consecutive courses* and full-year courses.

Exclusions:

This policy does not apply to:

1) Textbooks in any format;
2) Computer hardware and other technological costs (including but not limited to iClicker remotes and subscriptions, and internet network access costs); and
3) Non-digital costs associated with field trips/off-campus learning.

Definitions:

For the purposes of this policy:

- *Consecutive courses* means courses which are meant to be taken as a set, one of which is a prerequisite for the other.

- *Digital* means non-physical including digital, electronic, web-based, online and like terminology.

- *Digital Assessment Tool* means fee-based, web-based platforms used to assess student learning (commonly referred to as online homework systems).

Policy:

1) No credit course shall have as a requirement for assessment that students purchase or otherwise pay for access to *Digital Assessment Tools* with a total cost of more than $65 per three-credit course (this equates to $43 per two-credit course and $87 per four-credit course).

2) In cases in which students may use the same *Digital Assessment Tool* for two consecutive courses, the cost cap increases to $130 over the two three-credit courses.

3) When *Digital Assessment Tools* are used as a component of a student's academic standing in a course, no more than 15% of their final academic standing may be derived from *Digital Assessment Tools*.

4) The relevant dean and head may grant exceptions to sections 1-3 above on a case-by-case basis for a course if required for accreditation. Such exceptions are discouraged and must be reported by the dean, in aggregate for their faculty, to the Registrar at the end of each term

Calendar Statement:

There are no calendar statements under this policy.

Consultations

There have been no formal consultations for the development of this time-limited policy.

History:

This is the first version of this policy.

Related Policies:

There are no related policies.

Appendix:

There is no appendix to this policy.

Procedures:

There are no procedures for this policy.