



Vancouver Senate Admissions Committee
c/o
Enrolment Services | Senate & Curriculum Services
Brock Hall 2016 – 1874 East Mall
Vancouver BC V6T 1Z1
Tel : (604) 822-8141 | Fax : (604) 822-5945

3 December 2010

To: Vancouver Senate

From: Admissions Committee

Re: **Applicants Following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum: English 11 First Peoples (approval)**

Minimum Academic Standard for Secondary School Applicants (approval)

d. Applicants Following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum: English 11 First Peoples (approval)(circulated)

The Admissions Committee has reviewed and recommends for approval changes in admission requirements for applicants following the BC/Yukon secondary school curriculum. For admission to an undergraduate degree program, applicants may satisfy the English 11 admission requirement by completion of English 11 First Peoples.

Motion: *That Senate approve changes in admission requirements for applicants following the BC/Yukon secondary school curriculum, effective for admission to the 2011 Winter Session and thereafter.*

e. Minimum Academic Standard for Secondary School Applicants (approval)(circulated)

The Admissions Committee has reviewed and recommends for approval the proposed increase to the University's minimum admission average for applicants from secondary school to first-year undergraduate programs from 67% to 70% and the associated Calendar changes.

Motion: *That Senate approve the increase in the University minimum admission average for applicants from secondary school to the first year of all direct-entry undergraduate programs from 67% to 70%, effective for admission to the 2012 Winter Session and thereafter.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. David Fielding
Chair, Admissions Committee



UBC Undergraduate Admissions Proposal Form Change to Admission Requirements

<p>Effective Session: 2011 Admission Year for Change: To be posted to the calendar upon approval for the purpose of advising prospective students.</p>	<p>Date: October 13, 2010 Contact Persons: Graeme Joseph, Coordinator Strategic Aboriginal Initiatives Office of the VP, Students 604 822-4041 graeme.joseph@ubc.ca</p>																								
<p>URL: http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=2,22,63,0</p> <p>Proposed Calendar Entry:</p> <p><u>Homepage</u> > <u>Admissions</u> > <u>Applicants Following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum</u> > Admission Requirements</p> <p>Admission Requirements</p> <p>The minimum academic qualification for admission is secondary school graduation from a recognized secondary school, including the following Grade 11 and 12 courses:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #4f81bd; color: white;"> <th style="width: 15%;">Grade</th> <th style="width: 85%;">Required Courses¹</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Grade 12</td> <td>English 12 or English 12 First Peoples</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> <td></td> <td>Three additional approved examinable Grade 12 courses^{1,2}</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Grade 11</td> <td>English 11 <u>or English 11 First Peoples</u></td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> <td></td> <td>Principles of Mathematics 11, Pre-Calculus 11, or Foundations of Mathematics 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Civic Studies 11 or Social</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Grade	Required Courses ¹	Grade 12	English 12 or English 12 First Peoples		Three additional approved examinable Grade 12 courses ^{1,2}	Grade 11	English 11 <u>or English 11 First Peoples</u>		Principles of Mathematics 11, Pre-Calculus 11, or Foundations of Mathematics 12		Civic Studies 11 or Social	<p>URL: http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=2,22,63,0</p> <p>Present Calendar Entry:</p> <p><u>Homepage</u> > <u>Admissions</u> > <u>Applicants Following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum</u> > Admission Requirements</p> <p>Admission Requirements</p> <p>The minimum academic qualification for admission is secondary school graduation from a recognized secondary school, including the following Grade 11 and 12 courses:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #4f81bd; color: white;"> <th style="width: 15%;">Grade</th> <th style="width: 85%;">Required Courses¹</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Grade 12</td> <td>English 12 or English 12 First Peoples</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> <td></td> <td>Three additional approved examinable Grade 12 courses^{1,2}</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Grade 11</td> <td>English 11</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> <td></td> <td>Principles of Mathematics 11, Pre-Calculus 11, or Foundations of Mathematics 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Civic Studies 11 or Social Studies 11²</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Grade	Required Courses ¹	Grade 12	English 12 or English 12 First Peoples		Three additional approved examinable Grade 12 courses ^{1,2}	Grade 11	English 11		Principles of Mathematics 11, Pre-Calculus 11, or Foundations of Mathematics 12		Civic Studies 11 or Social Studies 11 ²
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<p>Studies 11²</p> <p>At least one approved Science 11³</p> <p>An approved Language 11⁴</p> <p>¹ Or approved equivalent International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, or Post-secondary course. See the table Specific Program Requirements for Applicants Following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum and the sections titled Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Courses Approved to Satisfy Pre-requisites and Post-Secondary Course Credits that Count Toward High School Graduation.</p> <p>² First Nations Studies 12 may be used either to satisfy the Civic/Social Studies 11 requirement or as an approved Grade 12 course for your admission average, but may not be used to satisfy both of these admission criteria.</p> <p>³ See the table Specific Program Requirements for Applicants following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum for programs requiring two Science courses at the Grade 11 level.</p> <p>⁴ A beginner's Language 11 does not satisfy this requirement.</p> <p>[...]</p>	<p>At least one approved Science 11³</p> <p>An approved Language 11⁴</p> <p>¹ Or approved equivalent International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, or Post-secondary course. See the table Specific Program Requirements for Applicants Following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum and the sections titled Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Courses Approved to Satisfy Pre-requisites and Post-Secondary Course Credits that Count Toward High School Graduation.</p> <p>² First Nations Studies 12 may be used either to satisfy the Civic/Social Studies 11 requirement or as an approved Grade 12 course for your admission average, but may not be used to satisfy both of these admission criteria.</p> <p>³ See the table Specific Program Requirements for Applicants following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum for programs requiring two Science courses at the Grade 11 level.</p> <p>⁴ A beginner's Language 11 does not satisfy this requirement.</p> <p>[...]</p>
<p>Type of Action: Reflect English 11 First Peoples, equivalent to English 11, in the BC/Yukon secondary school requirements for undergraduate admission to UBC.</p> <p>Rationale: Effective September 2010 the BC Ministry of Education launched two new English courses, English 10 and 11 First Peoples. An official announcement from the Ministry states that:</p> <p><i>English First Peoples is intended for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal teachers and students. These courses represent an invitation to all learners to explore and discover First Peoples worldviews through the study of literary, informational and media text with local, Canadian and international First Peoples' content. The courses focus on texts that present authentic First Peoples voices (i.e., historical or contemporary texts created by or with First Peoples).</i></p> <p><i>English 10 and 11 First Peoples are the academic equivalent of English 10 and 11. Students will develop the English language and literacy skills and capacities they must have in order to meet British Columbia's graduation requirements.</i></p>	



On the basis that the Ministry deems these courses equivalent to English 10 and 11, it is recommended that associated UBC admission requirements for English 11 also accept English 11 First Peoples. The proposed Calendar entry reflects this recommendation.

More details on these courses are available online at www.fnesc.ca/efp/efp10_11.php and www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/course.php?course=English%2010%20and%202011%20First%20Peoples&year=2010&lang=en&subject=English%20Language%20Arts.



UBC Undergraduate Admissions Proposal Form Change to Admission Requirements

Effective Session: 2012 Admission	Date: August 31, 2010
Year for Change: To be posted to the calendar upon approval for the purpose of advising prospective students.	Contact Person: Dr. Peter Marshall 604 822-4918 peter.marshall@ubc.ca
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=2,0,0,0 Proposed Calendar Entry: <u>Homepage > Admissions > Minimum Academic Standard for Secondary School Applicants</u> <i>Minimum Academic Standard for Secondary School Applicants</i> <u>A minimum admission average of 70% or equivalent on a 50% pass scale is required for admission to all undergraduate programs.</u> <u>Due to receipt of many more qualified applicants than there are spaces available in most programs, a higher average is often required.</u>	http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=2,0,0,0 Present Calendar Entry: None
URL: http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=2,22,63,0 Proposed Calendar Entry: <u>Homepage > Admissions > Applicants Following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum > Admission Requirements</u>	URL: http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=2,22,63,0 Present Calendar Entry: <u>Homepage > Admissions > Applicants Following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum > Admission Requirements</u>

**Admission Requirements**

The minimum academic qualification for admission is secondary school graduation from a recognized secondary school, including the following Grade 11 and 12 courses:

Grade	Required Courses ¹
Grade 12	English 12 or English 12 First Peoples
	Three additional approved examinable Grade 12 courses ^{1,2}
Grade 11	English 11
	Principles of Mathematics 11, Pre-Calculus 11, or Foundations of Mathematics 12
	Civic Studies 11 or Social Studies 11 ²
	At least one approved Science 11 ³
	An approved Language 11 ⁴

¹ Or approved equivalent International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, or Post-secondary course. See the table [Specific Program Requirements for Applicants Following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum](#) and the sections titled [Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Courses Approved to Satisfy Pre-requisites](#) and [Post-Secondary Course Credits that Count Toward High School Graduation](#).

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<p>admission criteria.</p> <p>³ See the table Specific Program Requirements for Applicants following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum for programs requiring two Science courses at the Grade 11 level.</p> <p>⁴ A beginner's Language 11 does not satisfy this requirement.</p> <p>The admission average will be calculated on English 12, or English 12 First Peoples, and the three additional approved examinable Grade 12 courses, or the equivalent.</p> <p><u>Applicants must present an admission average that meets or exceeds the minimum academic standard for secondary school applicants.</u> <<hotlink to url with new text, above>></p> <p>Applicants who, because of administrative difficulties in their school or because they have a physical, sensory, or specific learning disability, cannot present the courses as required, may be excused a specific admissions course requirement. Supporting documentation sent by the principal of the school concerned is required.</p> <p>A minimum final grade of 70% in either English 11 or English 12 (or equivalent) is required for all programs.</p> <p>[...]</p>	<p>admission criteria.</p> <p>³ See the table Specific Program Requirements for Applicants following the BC/Yukon Secondary School Curriculum for programs requiring two Science courses at the Grade 11 level.</p> <p>⁴ A beginner's Language 11 does not satisfy this requirement.</p> <p>The admission average will be calculated on English 12, or English 12 First Peoples, and the three additional approved examinable Grade 12 courses, or the equivalent.</p> <p>A minimum average of 67% is required for admission to all programs. However, due to limited enrolment, a higher average is required in most programs.</p> <p>Applicants who, because of administrative difficulties in their school or because they have a physical, sensory, or specific learning disability, cannot present the courses as required, may be excused a specific admissions course requirement. Supporting documentation sent by the principal of the school concerned is required.</p> <p>A minimum final grade of 70% in either English 11 or English 12 (or equivalent) is required for all programs.</p> <p>[...]</p>
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in Canada, outside of BC/Yukon >
Introduction

Introduction

Applicants who have followed an academic program leading to university entrance will be considered for admission. Graduation from a recognized secondary school is required.

Applicants must present English to the senior year level and a minimum final grade of 70% (or equivalent) in either English 11 or English 12. All prescribed subjects for the university studies sought, including a minimum standing in some courses, are required. (see the table [Specific Program Requirements](#)).

Applicants must present an admission average that meets or exceeds the minimum academic standard for secondary school applicants. <<hotlink to url with new text, above>>

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in Canada, outside of BC/Yukon >
Introduction

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~~Applicants who have followed an academic program leading to university entrance will be considered for admission to UBC. Students will be required to present English to the senior year level and all prescribed subjects for the university studies sought (see the table [Specific Program Requirements](#)).~~

~~Completion of secondary school graduation from a recognized secondary school is mandatory and a minimum average of 67% or equivalent is required.~~

~~Because of enrolment limitations, the academic standing required for admission to most programs is higher than 67%. Admission to some programs requires a minimum standing in specific courses.~~

~~A minimum final grade of 70% (or equivalent) in either English 11 or English 12 (or equivalent) is required for all programs.~~

[...]

Type of Action: Raise the university minimum admission average for applicants from secondary school to First Year undergraduate programs to 70%.

Rationale: Students admitted to undergraduate programs delivered on the UBC Vancouver campus typically present admission averages that are much higher than the current university minimum of 67%. Cut-offs for entry to most programs in 2010 lay in the 80%+ range, with some in the 90%+ range. Even programs that can physically accommodate students with averages below 75% have largely held to 75% as a standard for admission on interim grades because students with anything less typically struggle.

Despite high competitive admission cut-offs, the minimum academic standard of 67% is not a dormant measure. Admission offers made on competitive interim grades are retained so long as final grades remain above the university minimum. There are students at UBC because, when their



interim grades collapsed, they did not fall below 67%. There are also students at UBC in programs which consider criteria other than purely academic ones. In these programs, 67% establishes the limit for such consideration.

Analysis of data on the performance of students admitted with averages close to or at the university minimum from 2005-2008 reveals generally poor academic performance, particularly for those admitted with averages <70%. A total of 45% failed or were on academic probation after their first year of study, with 100% failure in a number of programs. Only a few programs were able to admit students to the current minimum and see those students succeed, including Human Kinetics and Music. In these programs the admission average, as currently structured, is not a good indicator of potential success in the program and other factors and aptitudes come into play.

Analysis of the data also revealed that students with admission averages <70% are at a much higher risk of withdrawing from the University. Thirty-one percent dropped out after first year, another 15% dropped out after year 2 and a further 5% dropped out in year 3. This represents a total retention rate of only 50% for the group. Compare this with the retention rates for UBC Vancouver undergraduate students from 2000-2006 which ranged between 88.8-91.3% for progression to 2nd year and 81.9-86.5% for progression to 3rd year.

The Senate Admissions Committee believes that the current minimum admission average of 67%, approved by Senate in 1963, no longer serves the original stated purpose to “exclude from the First Year such students as experience has shown might not be capable of completing successfully the work that year” and does not reflect UBC’s status in 2010 as one of the top universities in the world. It recommends that the minimum be raised to 70% (C+) or the equivalent in education systems outside of British Columbia.

A higher minimum admission average is anticipated to have the following benefits:

- Reduce the number and proportion of students who fail or are placed on academic probation in first year
- Increase student retention and persistence to degree completion
- Reduce demand on support systems for students who are the least academically prepared to succeed at UBC, thereby permitting greater allocation of academic support resources to other students
- Establish a more realistic academic minimum for consideration of students on special criteria

Consultation with various groups that may be impacted by the change to the minimum has been conducted. This included the International Student Initiative, Athletics, Aboriginal Coordinators, and programs that admit students to the university minimum. It is believed that the proposed higher minimum takes the well-being of the students in these various groups into consideration and that mechanisms to address individual cases where other factors may be relevant are available.