



ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Undergraduate Studies Committee

AGENDA

Date: January 20, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

[Zoom Videoconference Link](#) (registration required)

[USC Meeting Schedule and Materials 2025-2026](#)

No.		Topic	Lead	Suggested Start Time
PUBLIC SESSION				
1.		Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement	Chair	9:00 a.m.
2.		Agenda (M)		
3.		Chair's Remarks		
4.		Major Program Modifications (Recommendation)		9:05 a.m.
	4.1	Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering – Aerospace Specialization* (M)	M. Agelin-Chaab	
	4.2	Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Science (Hons) in Kinesiology – Fitness and Health Promotion Pathway* (M)	J. McCabe	
	4.3	Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Legal Studies – Teesside LLB Pathway* (M)	T. McMorrow	
5.		Minor Program Adjustments (Approval)		
	5.1	Faculty of Business and IT: Bachelor of Commerce Co-Operative Education* (M)	A. Hogue	

	5.2	Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Energy Engineering* (M)	M. Agelin-Chaab	9:15 a.m.
	5.3	Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Nuclear Engineering* (M)	M. Agelin-Chaab	
	5.4	Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Administration (Hons)* (M)	J. McCabe	
	5.5	Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Sciences (Hons) in Kinesiology* (M)	J. McCabe	
	5.6	Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Hons) and RPN to BScN – Advanced Entry* (M)	J. McCabe	
6.		Consent Agenda: (M)	Chair	9:35 a.m.
	6.1	Public Minutes of the Meeting of December 16, 2025* (M)		
	6.2	2026-2027 Undergraduate Academic Schedule* (I)		
	6.3	Course change(s): BUSI 3601U , BUSI 4455U , HLSC 4820U , HLSC 4991U , NURS 2703U , NURS 3700U , NURS 4600U , NUCL 2240U , NUCL 4120U , RADI 3570U		
	6.4	New Course(s): HLSC 4406U , KINE 4406U , SIMU 2000U		
7.		Termination	Chair	9:40 a.m.

Nicola Crow, University Secretary

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 20 January 2026

FROM: Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering – Aerospace Specialization

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to examine proposals for new undergraduate degree programs and major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council”.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to introduce an Aerospace Specialization within the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering program.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering is proposing the introduction of a new Aerospace Specialization. This specialization would replace the four existing engineering electives in the core Mechanical Engineering curriculum with four newly developed aerospace-focused courses:

- MECE 3811U Aerodynamics and Flight Mechanics
- MECE 3822U Aircraft Structures and Design
- MECE 4823U Aerospace Propulsion Systems
- MECE 4824U Flight Dynamics and Control.

The addition of these courses will also result in minor adjustments to the program map in Years 3 and 4.

Mechanical engineering is a broad and interdisciplinary field that overlaps significantly with other engineering disciplines, including electrical, chemical, civil, computer, and software engineering. The proposed Aerospace Specialization builds on this breadth by providing students with a solid foundation in key aerospace engineering principles, theories, and applications. Through this specialization, students will gain enhanced knowledge and skills relevant to solving aerospace-related problems and addressing industry challenges. This addition strengthens the program's alignment with emerging sector needs and offers students expanded pathways into aerospace careers and advanced study.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

Existing faculty will be used to teach the courses in the specialization as part of their regular teaching loads. As the specialization replaces four engineering elective spots in the program, there is no net new instruction to deliver the specialization.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

Nominally, the specialization will launch with the Fall 2026 cohort. There is no impact on the core Mechanical Engineering program since the specialization is simply replacing the four existing engineering electives with specific courses for those students who take the specialization. Existing students can potentially take the specialization by taking the three specified courses as their electives.

When launched, communication to students who are eligible to enroll in the specialization will be made via Engineering Advising and our FEAS social media channels.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ MME Department Council: 18 November 2025
- ✓ Engineering Curriculum Committee: 20 November 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 4 December 2025
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (Recommendation): 20 January 2026
- Academic Council (Approval): 24 February 2026

There is student representation on the Mechanical Program Curriculum Committee, and Academic Advising also participates at the Engineering Curriculum Committee. This ensures that proposed changes are reviewed through a collaborative and consultative process that includes both student and advising perspectives.

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the recommendation of USC, this change will be presented to Academic Council for approval. If approved, it will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

[Major Program Modification – Mechanical Engineering – Aerospace Specialization](#)

New courses: [MECE 3811U](#), [MECE 3822U](#), [MECE 4823U](#), [MECE 4824U](#)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 20 January 2026

FROM: Faculty of Health Sciences

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Health Science (Hons) in
Kinesiology – Fitness and Health Promotion Pathway

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to examine proposals for new undergraduate degree programs and major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council”.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Health Science (Hons) in Kinesiology – Fitness and Health Promotion Pathway, shifting the program from an Advanced Entry model to a Bridge structure.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Kinesiology program at Ontario Tech, originally developed from the Health Sciences program and revised most recently in 2019, provides a strong foundation in science, health, and rehabilitation, making it well aligned with a new bridge pathway for Fitness and Health Promotion (FHP) graduates. Feedback from Durham College’s Program Advisory Committee indicated that students were choosing other universities offering a summer bridge plus two years of full-time study, whereas Ontario Tech’s current FHP to Kinesiology pathway requires three full-time years.

Recent curriculum updates at both institutions now allow more transfer credits to be granted. The spring/summer bridge will include:

- HLSC 1201U Human Anatomy & Physiology II,

- New KINE 2002U Fitness & Health Promotion Bridge to address gaps from KINE 2100U and KINE 2140U, and
- one elective which can be completed either in the Bridge term or at a later time.

Completion of these courses will allow FHP graduates to complete the degree in two full-time years.

This change aligns Ontario Tech with comparable pathways at other institutions and supports transfer student success. While designed collaboratively with Durham College, students from similar two-year programs may qualify following transcript review.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional faculty members are required. One new course – KINE 2002U Fitness & Health Promotion Bridge – would be taught by Kinesiology faculty member or a sessional, however a teaching assistant with relevant Athletic therapy experience would be required to cover lab sessions related to the practical component of injury management.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

FHP graduates will have the opportunity to enroll in this Bridge as of May 2026 (or 2027) at the discretion of the Dean. The Program Director will visit the FHP students at Durham college in January each year to make them aware of the opportunity. The new program will also be described on the Faculty webpage.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Program Committee: 6 November 2025
- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 18 November 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 3 December 2025
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (Recommendation): 20 January 2026
- Academic Council (Approval): 24 February 2026

The bridge program was developed following consultation with faculty at Durham College and Ontario Tech and after a comprehensive review comparing the Kinesiology program with the required courses in the Fitness and Health Promotion (FHP) diploma.

Anecdotal feedback from prospective students directly indicated a clear preference for a shorter pathway to degree completion.

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the recommendation of USC, this change will be presented to Academic Council for approval. If approved, it will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

[Major Program Modification – Kinesiology Fitness and Health Promotion](#)

New courses: [KINE 2002U](#)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 20 January 2026

FROM: Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Legal Studies –
Teesside LLB pathway

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to examine proposals for new undergraduate degree programs and major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council”.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to add the University of Aberdeen as a new institutional partner to the Honours Legal Studies – Teesside LLB pathway and amend the pathway title to the UK LLB pathway.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Teesside LLB pathway was established Fall 2026 and will accept its first cohort of students in Fall 2027.

The Legal Studies (Honours) – UK LLB pathway will feature two, instead of just one partner institution: the University of Aberdeen (Scotland), along with Teesside University (England). Students who are accepted and maintain their standing in the pathway will have the opportunity to express their preference for which university they would like to attend. Preferences will be granted in accordance with rankings commensurate with academic achievement in the BA (Honours) Legal Studies program.

This modification will enhance the UK LLB pathway, by offering an additional institutional destination for students interested in this unique opportunity to obtain a BA (Honours) Legal Studies and UK LLB in five years. Adding a Scottish partner further internationalizes the

pathway; moreover, an excellent, established university as the University of Aberdeen only enhances the quality of opportunity offered to students. The international experience Legal Studies students will gain from this pathway (whether they attend Teesside or Aberdeen) will enhance their capacity to contribute as global citizens, as well as deepen their fulfillment of the Legal Studies program learning outcomes, through their development of a comparative legal perspective. It also creates an option for students who wish to pursue law careers in the UK and Canada (subject the attainment of the necessary qualifications).

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources are required.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

As no students have yet been admitted to this program, no transition plan is required. The change will be reflected in the academic calendar and on the faculty web page and promoted through recruitment activities and materials.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 10 December 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 12 December 2025
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (Recommendation): 20 January 2026
- Academic Council (Approval): 24 February 2026

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the recommendation of USC, this change will be presented to Academic Council for approval. If approved, it will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

[Major Program Proposal](#)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 20 January 2026

FROM: Faculty of Business and Information Technology

SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Bachelor of Commerce Co-operative Education

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information.”

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Bachelor of Commerce Co-operative Education program to update both the structure of the program and the policies and procedures.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

After three years of experience with the co-op program, the Faculty is proposing minor updates to co-op procedures and policies for BCom students and the structure of the co-op program to align with the operational and academic requirements of the Faculty.

Students will be able to choose a continuous longer work term in addition to the alternating model which will continue to be available. This will lead to more job options becoming available to students and provides more flexibility in choosing the timing and length of work terms.

The Faculty has also updated language regarding ineligibility due to academic misconduct modified to maintain consistency across all FBIT experiential learning programs.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources required.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

Continuing students may choose to follow the work/study sequence given to them when they started a program or follow the new approach. All other changes are minor and can also be applied to students currently in the program.

Students will be informed by academic advising and through the academic calendar.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 16 December 2026
- ✓ Faculty Council: 6 January 2026
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 20 January 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 February 2026

CEELCD was also consulted on the proposed changes.

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the approval of USC, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

[Minor Program Adjustment proposal](#)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 20 January 2026

FROM: Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Energy Engineering

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information.”

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Energy Engineering program to replace the current program-specific capstone courses with two common capstone system design courses and to replace and reschedule select Year 3 courses.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science is proposing a set of curriculum updates to the Energy Engineering program to strengthen academic coherence, enhance student learning, and improve program delivery efficiency. These updates include transitioning from program-specific capstone courses to common capstone systems design courses shared across all engineering programs, and revising Year 3 course sequencing, including updates to the artificial intelligence offering, to better support foundational skill development and ensure students engage with essential material at the most appropriate point in their academic progression.

The introduction of common capstone courses further strengthens the student experience by enabling multi-disciplinary design teams that more closely mirror industry practice, while also improving consistency in course delivery and learning across all

engineering programs. Over time, the two common capstone courses are expected to be consolidated into a single, year-long capstone design course.

Additionally, replacing MANE 4160U with ENGR 3150U removes unnecessary duplication of course content that parallels material already offered within the Faculty. Rescheduling MECE 3410U from the Fall to the Winter semester eliminates the need to deliver the course in both terms. Together, these changes improve the overall coherence, efficiency, and sustainability of program delivery.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources required. The changes will better utilize resources and improve program delivery efficiency.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

Current students (Fall 2025 intake and earlier) will take ENGR 3150U in lieu of MANE 4160U. Future students (Fall 2026 intake and onwards) will follow the new program map.

The new common capstone structure will take effect in the 2026–2027 academic year; any current students who have not yet completed their existing capstone sequence will transition to the two new common capstone systems design courses. Engineering Advising will notify students of these capstone changes through direct email communication.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ ENE Department Council: 8 May 2025
- ✓ Engineering Curriculum Committee: 8 May 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 25 September 2025
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 20 January 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 February 2026

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the approval of USC, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Minor Program Adjustment – Energy Engineering](#)
 - New course(s): [ENGR 4111U](#), [ENGR 4222U](#)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 20 January 2026

FROM: Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Nuclear Engineering

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information.”

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Nuclear Engineering program to support the integration of the common first year, common capstone, and address minimum AU requirements.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science is proposing changes to the Nuclear Engineering program to increase elective choice, enabling students to tailor their studies toward specific career pathways, while also better balancing the course load in Years 2 and 3 by aligning both at eleven courses.

The introduction of common capstone courses further strengthens the student experience by enabling multi-disciplinary design teams that more closely mirror industry practice, while also improving consistency in course delivery and learning across all engineering programs. Over time, the two common capstone courses are expected to be consolidated into a single, year-long capstone design course.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources required. The changes will allow better utilization of resources with the reduction from ten (10) courses to two (2) different courses that are common to all programs.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

Beginning with the Fall 2024 cohort, Nuclear Engineering students will follow the new program map, while those from Fall 2023 and earlier will continue under the existing curriculum.

Academic advising will guide students through these changes, and the annual Fall meeting for first-year students will continue to communicate program updates. The Student Academic Experience Committee will also be informed of the revisions.

The new common capstone structure will take effect in the 2026–2027 academic year; any current students who have not yet completed their existing capstone sequence will transition to the two new common capstone systems design courses. Engineering Advising will notify students of these capstone changes through direct email communication.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ ENE Department Council: 6 November 2025
- ✓ Engineering Curriculum Committee: 20 November 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 4 December 2025
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 20 January 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 February 2026

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the approval of USC, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Minor Program Adjustment – Nuclear Engineering](#)
 - New course(s): [ENGR 4111U](#), [ENGR 4222U](#)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 20 January 2026

FROM: Faculty of Health Sciences

SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Bachelor of Health Administration
(Hons)

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information.”

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Bachelor of Health Administration (Hons) program to revise the program’s required courses.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty of Health Sciences is proposing updates to the Health Administration program, including removing BUSI 1130U and replacing it with a new course (HLSC 2805U Financial Management: Canadian Healthcare Sector) as a required course, as well as removing PSYC 1000U and replacing it with SOCI 1000U. In addition, SUST 1002U will be added as a new required course. This proposal also formalizes HLSC 4993U by adding it to the list of required courses in the calendar entry, as it had previously been approved as part of the program core.

The removal of BUSI 1130U and PSYC 1000U and their replacement with HLSC 2805U and SOCI 1000U will enable the program to be delivered fully online and enhance overall accessibility for learners.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources required.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

Students who entered the program prior to the 2025–26 academic year will continue to take BUSI 1130U as part of their program requirements. The Faculty of Health Sciences Academic Advisors will communicate this information to both current and incoming students, and the program maps for all affected cohorts are available on the BHA website.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Program Committee: 6 November 2025
- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 18 November 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 3 December 2025
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 20 January 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 February 2026

Consultation between the FHS Associate Dean and FBIT Associate Dean took place regarding the replacement of the BUSI course with the HLSC course.

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the approval of USC, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Minor Program Adjustment – Health Administration](#)
 - New course(s): [HLSC 2805U](#)
 - course change(s): [HLSC 4993U](#)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 20 January 2026

FROM: Faculty of Health Sciences

SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Bachelor of Health Sciences (Hons) in Kinesiology

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information.”

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Hons) in Kinesiology program to update the required courses for students in the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) pathway option.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty of Health Sciences is proposing updates to the Kinesiology program specifically for students who are in the CMCC pathway. Currently these students take two upper-year anatomy courses - KINE 4473U and KINE 4474U - which require travel to the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) at Leslie and Finch in Toronto during the fall and winter terms of third year. With increasing lab rental fees at CMCC and the additional expense of hiring sessional instructors for each course, continuing to offer these courses is no longer financially viable. After discussions with CMCC, the college has agreed to continue reserving ten seats for Ontario Tech pathway students, who will now complete these advanced anatomy courses once they begin their studies at CMCC.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources required.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

Students currently in their second year of the pathway will continue to have access to the two advanced anatomy courses during their third year in 2026–27. Current first-year students will not apply to the pathway until Spring 2026, and by that time the CMCC-delivered anatomy courses will no longer be available to them in their third year. Instead, these students will complete two upper-year Kinesiology electives.

This change will be communicated to students at the time they apply to the pathway. In discussions with first-year students about the application process, the Program will explicitly clarify that the advanced anatomy courses are no longer offered.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Program Committee: 6 November 2025
- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 18 November 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 3 December 2025
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 20 January 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 February 2026

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the approval of USC, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Minor Program Adjustment – Kinesiology](#)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 20 January 2026

FROM: Faculty of Health Sciences

SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Hons) and RPN to BScN – Advanced Entry

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information.”

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the program progression requirements for the honours Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) and RPN to BScN Advanced Entry programs.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty of Health Sciences is proposing the removal of NURS 2500U from the BScN program progression requirements and the addition of NURS 4600U. For the RPN to BScN Advanced Entry program, the Faculty is also proposing the removal of NURS 2500U, NURS 3701U, and NURS 3703U from the progression requirements. These courses were added in error and now need to be removed.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources required.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

Implementation will begin in Fall 2026. The Associate Dean will be responsible for informing students of these changes through direct communication and updated advising

materials, and individualized program maps will be created for off-map students to ensure clarity and support during the transition.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ UNPC and UNCC: 31 October 2025
- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 18 November 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 3 December 2025
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 20 January 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 February 2026

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the approval of USC, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Minor Program Adjustment – Nursing](#)
- [Minor Program Adjustment – RPN to BScN Advanced Entry](#)

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (USC)**

**Minutes of the Public Session of the December 16, 2025 Meeting
via Videoconference
9:00 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.**

Undergraduate Studies Committee Agenda & Materials 2025-2026

Present:

Mehdi Hossein-Nejad,
Acting Chair
Wendy Barber
Jessica Boswell
Nicola Crow

Ana Duff
Christian Elia
Randy Fortier
Janet McCabe
Kimberley McCartney

Thomas McMorrow
Scott Nokleby
Jemma Tam
Adam Wingate

Regrets:

Mary Bluechardt, Holly MacPherson

Staff:

Kirstie Ayotte (Secretary)

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The Chair called the Public session of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and S. Nokleby provided their personal Land Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Acting Chair noted that K. McCartney had asked that Item 8.1 (Public Minutes of the Meeting of November 18, 2025) be removed from the Consent Agenda as there was a minor correction required in the Minutes.

A Member requested that an item of business arising from the minutes be added to the agenda. Given the full agenda, it was proposed to amend the agenda to add an "Other Business" item at the end of the meeting, to be addressed if time permitted, with the option to defer the matter to a future meeting if there was insufficient time.

Upon a motion duly made by J. McCabe and seconded by R. Fortier, the USC Agenda was approved as proposed, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents and adding the other business item.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Acting Chair conveyed the Chair's thanks and appreciation to the Committee, extended Holiday well wishes, and noted that this was their final USC meeting as the Faculty of Business and IT representative. S. Nokleby also noted his upcoming leave to serve as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science and thanked the Committee.

4. Major Program Modifications (Recommendation)

4.1 Faculty of Business and IT: Bachelor of Commerce* (M)

A. Duff explained that the proposed Commerce specialization builds on existing micro- and macroeconomics and adds courses in energy and environmental economics, including options from Political Science.

A Member inquired about offering it internally versus through OUAC, and M. Hossein-Nejad noted that a decision will be made at a later date in that regard.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Duff and seconded by S. Nokleby, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to add a new specialization in Economics to the Bachelor of Commerce program.

4.2 Faculty of Business and IT: Bachelor of Information Technology in Game Development and Interactive Media* (M)

A. Duff described a new interdisciplinary specialization in the BIT Game Development program, focusing on video games, creative industries, and society, which integrates FSSH and FBIT strengths to enhance the program's creative industries curriculum.

Upon a motion duly made by R. Fortier and seconded by W. Barber, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to add a new specialization in Video Games, Creative Industries and Society to the Bachelor of Information Technology in Game Development and Interactive Media program.

4.3 Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Science (Hons) in Medical Laboratory Science and Medical Laboratory Science – Bridge – Advanced Diploma in Biotechnology* (M)

J. McCabe noted that the proposed program changes respond to industry and regulatory exam changes, accreditation requirements, and student feedback, and prior program recommendations. The updates simplify and improve the practicum through greater use of simulation and reduced practicum hours, streamline program delivery, and expand eligibility to college graduates beyond Durham College.

Upon a motion duly made by J. McCabe and seconded by R. Fortier, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Health Science (Hons) in Medical Laboratory Science and Medical Laboratory Science – Bridge – Advanced Diploma in Biotechnology programs.

4.4 Faculty of Science: Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Computer Science* (M)

R. Fortier outlined updates to the Computer Science program, including core program changes, modifications to existing specializations, and two new specializations: Artificial Intelligence and Software Development. All specializations will include a special topics course, with additional course renumbering and updates.

A friendly amendment was proposed to rename the Digital Media specialization within the proposed program modification to Interactive Computing, and it was clarified that despite some course overlap with FBIT, the programs have distinct focuses.

Upon a motion duly made by R. Fortier and seconded by J. Tam, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Computer Science, including the amendment to rename the existing Digital Media specialization to Interactive Computing.

4.5 Faculty of Science: Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Physics – Computational Physics specialization* (M)

R. Fortier noted that this addition reflects the growing computational focus field, introduces new fourth year courses, and adjusts prerequisites on an existing course so both Astrophysics and Computational Physics students can enroll.

Upon a motion duly made by R. Fortier and seconded by J. McCabe, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Physics program to add a new specialization in Computational Physics.

4.6 Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Communications and Digital Media Studies* (M)

T. McMorrow outlined two new Communications and Digital Media Studies (CDMS) specializations – Video Games, Creative Industries and Society, and AI for Professional Communications; and noted updates to the program's elective options.

Upon a motion duly made by T. McMorrow and seconded by W. Barber, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to add two new specializations - Video Games, Creative Industries and Society, and AI for Professional Communicators to the Communications and Digital Media Studies program – and to update elective options in the program.

4.7 Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Criminology and Justice – Advanced Entry* (M)

T. McMorrow explained that the Criminology and Justice Advanced Entry Pathway can now be completed fully online, leveraging existing online courses. He noted that this option aims to attract more advanced entry students by providing greater flexibility and accessibility.

Upon a motion duly made by T. McMorrow and seconded by R. Fortier, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to create a fully online option of the Advanced Entry pathway of the Criminology and Justice program.

4.8 Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and - Liberal Studies including Advanced Entry and GAS Transfer options, Liberal Studies minor* (M)

T. McMorrow explained that the Liberal Studies program will be renamed General Arts to increase recognition and attract more applicants, while retaining its original interdisciplinary vision. Program requirements, learning outcomes, and course prefixes will be updated, and two new honours specializations added. The Liberal Studies minor will be renamed Social Science, Humanities and Arts to align with these changes.

Upon a motion duly made by T. McMorrow and seconded by R. Fortier, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to change the name of all Liberal Studies program options to General Arts including the three-year and Honours programs and all related pathways, to make related adjustments to the program requirements, Program Learning Outcomes, and course prefixes, and to add two new specializations to the Honours program. USC further recommends the related name change of the Liberal Studies minor to Social Science, Humanities and Arts.

4.9 Faculty of Social Science & Humanities: Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Political Science* (M)

T. McMorrow explained that a new Economic specialization is being added to the BA Honours in Political Science, with updates to program requirements and electives. He noted that this initiative is a joint effort between FBIT and FSSH and complements related changes in the Political Science program.

Upon a motion duly made by T. McMorrow and seconded by A. Duff, the USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to add a new specialization in Economics to the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Political Science program and to update program requirements by requiring students to select one of POSC 4000U or POSC 4800U, and by replacing an inactive elective course with LGLS 1000U as a recommended elective.

5. Minor Program Modifications (Approval)

5.1 Faculty of Science: Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Mathematics for Science and Industry* (M)

R. Fortier advised that the program is making some previously required courses optional, increasing the total number of electives to six, two at the 4000 level, and adding two new electives.

Upon a motion duly made by R. Fortier and seconded by J. McCabe, the USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the BSc (Hons) Mathematics for Science and Industry program, including reclassification of certain required courses as electives, an increase in the number of required electives, and the addition of new elective options.

5.2 Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Sociology, Technology and Innovation* (M)

T. McMorrow noted that the Sociology program is introducing a clearer focus on Technology and Innovation, with minor adjustments to the course map, including a new course and updates to electives.

Upon a motion duly made by T. McMorrow and seconded by S. Nokleby, the USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Sociology, Technology and Innovation program (including the Advanced Entry option) to add additional courses with a technology focus and update elective offerings accordingly.

6. Academic Policy Instruments

6.1 Registration and Course Selection Policy Amendments* (D)

A. Wingate explained that the updates to the policy affect Graduate Students, specifically clarifying language surrounding continuous enrollment to reflect the growth of fee-per-credit programs. He advised that the changes provide clearer guidance for international students on structured program breaks, reduce the need for ad-hoc letters, and improve readability without altering the policy's intent. He noted that the policy was before USC for deliberation only.

A Member asked whether the revised policy language on non-continuous registration is clear enough for immigration purposes. A. Wingate responded that while it has not been formally assessed, consultations with International Student Services indicate the changes should be sufficient.

7. Impact Assessment – Change to Undergraduate Deadline to Withdraw from Courses* (I)

A. Wingate reported on the impact of aligning the undergraduate course drop deadline with the last day of lectures. He noted that this report was for information purposes only and was being provided out of courtesy by way of follow up to a prior enquiry. A. Wingate advised that the analysis indicated an initial increase in withdrawal activity following implementation, a significant reduction in late withdrawal appeals, a decline in failing grades and probation rates, and improved retention. Withdrawal activity has since stabilized, and the policy is consistent with practices at other Ontario Universities. Based on these findings, the current drop-date will remain in effect.

Members acknowledged positive outcomes such as reduced late withdrawal appeals, improved retention, and no adverse impact on program quality. Comments were also made on the effects of the late drop policy, including trends in withdrawal activity, late withdrawal appeals, failing grades, probation rates, and student experience. A Member raised several questions in which the Acting Chair reiterated that the item was presented to USC for informational purposes only as it was outside its purview and so had no scope for decision-making. The Acting Chair requested that any remaining questions be directed to the Registrar's Office via email to maintain the meeting's focus.

8. Consent Agenda (M)

The Chair confirmed that the contents of the Consent Agenda were approved and received under Agenda Item # 2 save for Item 8.1.

8.2 Course change(s):

[FSCI 4020U](#), [BUSI 32405U](#), [BUSI 3410U](#), [BUSI 3430U](#), [BUSI 3440U](#), [BUSI 3460U](#), [BUSI 4450U](#), [BUSI 4504U](#), [BUSI 3820U](#) [INFR 1300U](#), [INFR 4320U](#)

8.3 New course(s):

[BIOL 4090U](#), [FSCI 4090U](#)

8.4 Inactive course:

[HLSC 3462U](#)

8.5 New cross-listed courses:

[ENGR 1050U](#) (update), [SSCI 1050U](#)

Pulled from Consent Agenda:

8.1 Public Minutes of the Meeting of November 18, 2025* (M)

It was clarified that Section 6.1 from the Public Minutes of the Meeting of November 18, 2025, should read as follows:

“K. McCartney acknowledged the concern, noting that while some alignment is possible, differences in requirements and timing between accrediting bodies and the **Provincial** Quality Council often necessitate separate reviews. She emphasized that ongoing discussions and advocacy are underway to improve efficiency and minimize duplication wherever possible.”

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby and seconded by J. Tam, the Public Minutes of the Meeting of November 18, 2025 were approved as amended with one objection noted.

One (1) Objection.

9. Other Business

A Member expressed a concern that they felt that they were unable to raise perceived errors or procedural inquiries related to the meeting minutes, in part due to the feedback their comments had received from other Members at the November meeting. The Acting Chair acknowledged the comments and noted the concern.

10. Adjournment (M)

There being no other business, and upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby, the Public Session of the USC Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary

Academic schedule

- Fall semester
- Winter semester
- Spring/Summer semester

Fall semester

July 31, 2026	Last day to submit an application for Readmission or Change of Program for the fall semester through the portal.
August 10, 2026	Last day to submit an online application for graduation for students completing degree requirements at the end of the summer semester.
September 5 to 7, 2026	Fall semester orientation.
September 7, 2026	Labour Day.
September 8, 2026	Lectures begin for all programs, fall semester.
September 21, 2026	End of regular registration period; last day to add courses, fall semester.
	Last day to drop courses and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees, fall semester.
	Fall semester fees due.

October 5, 2026	<p>Last day to withdraw from fall semester courses without academic consequences (i.e., without receiving a grade). Courses dropped after this date will be recorded on the academic transcript with a grade of W to indicate withdrawal.</p> <p>Last day to drop courses and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees, fall semester.</p>
October 12, 2026	Thanksgiving Day, no scheduled academic activities.
October 13 to 18, 2026	Fall study week, no scheduled academic activities.
October 15, 2026	Fall Convocation.
November 30, 2026	Last day to submit an application for Readmission or Change of Program for the winter semester through the portal.
December 7, 2026	<p>Lectures end, fall semester, except Bachelor of Education.</p> <p>Last day to withdraw from fall semester courses. Active fall semester courses will be graded by instructors.</p>
December 8, 2026	Study break, no scheduled academic activities.

December 9 to 19, 2026	Fall semester final examination period. Students are advised not to make commitments during this period (i.e., vacation, travel plans).
December 18, 2026	Lectures end, Bachelor of Education.
January 4, 2027	Fall semester grades released.
January 6, 2027	Fall academic standing released.
December 24, 2026 to January 1, 2027	University closed.
December 31, 2026	Last day to submit online application for graduation for students completing degree requirements at the end of the fall semester.

Winter semester

January 4, 2027	University reopens. Start date, Bachelor of Education (see Frazer Faculty of Education's Field Experience Handbook).
January 11, 2027	Lectures begin, winter semester.
January 22, 2027	End of regular registration period; last day to add courses, winter semester.
	Last day to drop courses and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees, winter semester.

Winter semester fees due.

February 5, 2027

Last day to withdraw from winter semester courses without academic consequences (i.e., without receiving a grade). Courses dropped after this date will be recorded on the academic transcript with a grade of W to indicate withdrawal.

Last day to drop courses and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees, winter semester.

February 15, 2027

Family Day, no scheduled academic activities.

February 16 to 21, 2027

Winter study week, no scheduled academic activities.

February 28, 2027

Last day to submit online application for graduation for the spring session of convocation for students completing degree requirements at the end of the winter semester.

March 31, 2027

Last day to submit an application for Readmission or Change of Program for the spring/summer semester through the portal.

March 26, 2027

Good Friday, no scheduled academic activities.

March 28, 2027

Easter Sunday, no scheduled academic activities.

April 12, 2027 Lectures will follow the Friday schedule on this day only. Lectures end, winter semester, except Bachelor of Education.

Last day to withdraw from winter semester courses. Active winter semester courses will be graded by instructors.

April 13, 2027 Study break, no scheduled academic activities.

April 14 to 24, 2027 Winter semester final examination period. Students are advised not to make commitments during this period (i.e., vacation, travel plans).

April 29, 2027 Winter semester grades released.

April 30, 2027 Lectures end, Bachelor of Education.

May 3, 2027 Winter academic standing released.

Spring/Summer semester

May 3, 2027 Start date, Bachelor of Education (see Frazer Faculty of Education's Field Experience Handbook).

May 10, 2027 Lectures begin, six-week spring session and 12-week summer semester.

May 14, 2027 Last day to add six-week spring session courses.

Last day to drop six-week spring session courses and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees.

Six-week spring session and 12-week summer semester fees due. Fees are due at the time of registration for any six-week spring session or 12-week summer semester courses registered after this date.

May 24, 2027

Victoria Day, no scheduled academic activities.

May 21, 2027

Last day to add courses, 12-week summer semester.

Last day to drop 12-week summer semester courses and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees.

Last day to withdraw from six-week spring session courses and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees.

Last day to withdraw from six-week spring session courses without academic consequences (i.e., without receiving a grade). Courses dropped after this date will be recorded on the academic transcript with a grade of W to indicate withdrawal.

June 7, 2027	Last day to drop 12-week summer semester courses and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees.
	Last day to withdraw from 12-week summer semester courses without academic consequences (i.e., without receiving a grade). Courses dropped after this date will be recorded on the academic transcript with a grade of W to indicate withdrawal.
June 9 to 11, 2027	Spring Convocation.
June 21, 2027	Lectures end, six-week spring session.
	Last day to withdraw from six-week spring session courses. Active six-week spring session courses will be graded by instructors.
	Last day to submit online application for graduation for students completing degree requirements at the end of the spring session.
June 22, 2027	Spring six-week session study break, no scheduled academic activities.
June 22 to 26, 2027	Study break, 12-week summer semester, except Bachelor of Education.
June 23 to 26, 2027	Spring session final examination period. Students are advised not to make commitments during this period (i.e., vacation, travel plans).

June 28, 2027	Lectures begin, six-week summer session.
	Lectures resume, 12-week summer semester.
	Six-week summer session fees due. Fees are due at the time of registration for any six-week summer session courses registered after this date.
June 30, 2027	Spring session grades released.
July 1, 2027	Canada Day, no scheduled academic activities.
July 2, 2027	Lectures end, Bachelor of Education nine-week session.
July 5, 2027	Last day to add courses, six-week summer session.
	Last day to drop six-week summer session courses and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees.
July 12, 2027	Last day to drop six-week summer session courses and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees.
	Last day to withdraw from six-week summer session courses without academic consequences (i.e., without receiving a grade). Courses dropped after this date will be recorded

on the academic transcript with a grade of W to indicate withdrawal.

August 2, 2027	Civic holiday, no scheduled academic activities.
August 10, 2027	Last day to submit online application for graduation for students completing degree requirements at the end of the summer session. Lectures will follow the Thursday schedule on this day only. Lectures end, 12-week summer semester and six-week summer session. Last day to withdraw from 12-week summer semester and six-week summer courses. Active 12-week summer semester and six-week summer session courses will be graded by instructors.
August 11, 2027	Study break, no scheduled academic activities.
August 12 to 15, 2027	Summer semester final examination period (includes six-week and 12-week courses). Students are advised not to make commitments during this period (i.e., vacation, travel plans).
August 20, 2027	Six-week summer session and 12-week summer semester grades released.
August 24, 2027	Spring/Summer academic standing released.

Notes:

- Fourth-year students in the Medical Laboratory Science program will have program start dates prior to the first week of lectures stated in this academic schedule. See Medical Laboratory Science program start dates for details.
- See the Frazer Faculty of Education website for Bachelor of Education important program dates and details.
- Fall convocation will be held in October 2026. Spring convocation will be held in June 2027. For more details, please refer to ontariotechu.ca/convocation.