



## Faculty of Social Science and Humanities Academic Calendar Changes

To: Academic Council

Re: Faculty of Social Science and Humanities Bachelor of Arts Requirements Proposal

Date: 20 March 2018

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### **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGE**

The Faculty of Social Science and Humanities is introducing formal differentiation between “degree requirements” and “program requirements”, allowing the Faculty to clearly identify courses that are required for the Major program vs. courses that are required more generally for the degree. No changes are being made to the degree; this is a consolidation of the requirements.

### **RATIONALE FOR A NEW REGULATION**

Clearly defining degree and Major course requirements will provide a means to make changes specifically to Majors and allow for ease of combining programs to create more opportunities for students (such as double majors). Understanding which courses are Major requirements will allow faculty, staff, and students to easily identify course overlap. This change will also facilitate the removal of prescribed program maps that include a set sequence of courses by year and term.

Degree requirements provide students with the minimum number of course credit hours, breadth requirements, and year-level course requirements needed in order to graduate with an Honours BA from the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities. Program requirements include the specific credits and other requirements deemed necessary by the program committees to ensure students are meeting expectations for their particular fields.

### **DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE**

#### **Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements**

Requirement I: 120 credit hours

*NOTE: This is the current requirement for a 4-year degree at UOIT.*

Requirement II: at least one program as a major

*NOTE: Students may choose to also pursue a minor or double major, but they must register in at least one program.*

Requirement III: the following courses are required for breadth in first year, regardless of program:

- COMM 1100U Introduction to Communication
- POSC 1000U Introduction to Political Science
- PSYC 1000U Introductory Psychology
- SOCI 1000U Introductory Sociology
- SSCI 1000 Introduction to Criminal Justice
- LGLS 1000U Introduction to Legal Studies
- SSCI 1910U Writing for the Social Sciences

Students are required to take all seven of these courses in their first year in order to introduce them to all of the faculty's programs, to give them the pre-requisites for most of the faculty's second year courses, and to ease transferring from one program to another should students choose to do so after first year.

*NOTE: Most programs in FSSH have informally had a "common first year" which allows students to experience an introduction to most of FSSH programs. This change will include all programs into a "common first year component," with space left over for additional individual program requirements in first year.*

Requirement IV: at least one research methods course (e.g, SSCI 2900U Research Methods, SSCI 2920U Qualitative Research Methods, LGLS 2940U Legal Research Methods, COMM 2210U Researching Communication and Digital Culture).

*NOTE: All FSSH programs currently require at least one research methods course.*

Requirement V: at least 36 credit hours at the senior level (i.e., 3000 or 4000 level courses).

*NOTE: Requiring a certain number of upper-year courses is standard at most universities. We are proposing that 36 credit hours (or 12 courses) be the minimum number of upper-year courses (i.e., more than one year's worth of senior courses). Individual programs can require more than 36 credit hours or can choose to require a certain number of 4<sup>th</sup> year courses, as needed. These 36 credit hours can be elective or required courses; they do not need to be in the student's major.*

Requirement VI: to ensure that breadth of learning continues past the first year, students are required to successfully complete 9 credit hours in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities that:

- are NOT 1000 level courses
- do NOT have the same course code as your major (major codes are COMM for Communication and Digital Media Studies; PSYC for Forensic Psychology; POSC for Political Science; LGLS for Legal Studies; CRIM for Criminology and Justice)
- are NOT listed as a requirement for your major (unless listed as exempt by a program's specialization)

Double Majors and specializations within a major program that include at least 9 credit hours from another program will count as this breadth requirement.

*NOTE: Most universities have breadth requirements that ensure students take a certain number of courses outside of their major program. Nine credit hours (or 3 courses) constitutes approximately half a minor and/or one elective a year after first year. Students who take a minor will likely cover their breadth requirements with those courses. Some program specializations that require at least 3 courses from other programs will meet the breadth requirement and will be so noted in the Academic Calendar.*

Requirement VII: No more than 42 credit hours (including the common first-year courses) may be at the 1000-level.

## **PROPOSED CALENDAR COPY**

### **Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements**

The following degree requirements outline the minimum number of course credit hours, breadth requirements, and year-level courses needed in order to graduate with an Honours BA from the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities. Additionally, students will be required to complete the specific credits and other requirements deemed necessary by the program (Major/Minor) to which they are admitted.

Requirement I: 120 credit hours

Requirement II: at least one program as a major

Requirement III: the following first-year required courses:

- COMM 1100U Introduction to Communication
- POSC 1000U Introduction to Political Science
- PSYC 1000U Introductory Psychology
- SOCI 1000U Introductory Sociology
- SSCI 1000 Introduction to Criminal Justice
- LGLS 1000U Introduction to Legal Studies
- SSCI 1910U Writing for the Social Sciences

Requirement IV: at least one research methods course (e.g, SSCI 2900U Research Methods, SSCI 2920U Qualitative Research Methods, LGLS 2940U Legal Research Methods, COMM 2210U Researching Communication and Digital Culture).

Requirement V: at least 36 credit hours at the senior level (i.e., 3000 or 4000 level courses).

Requirement VI: to ensure that breadth of learning continues past the first year, students are required to successfully complete 9 credit hours in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities that:

- are NOT 1000 level courses
- do NOT have the same course code as your major (major codes are COMM for Communication and Digital Media Studies; PSYC for Forensic Psychology; POSC for Political Science; LGLS for Legal Studies; CRIM for Criminology and Justice)

- are NOT listed as a requirement for your major (unless listed as exempt by a program's specialization)

Double Majors and specializations within a major program that include at least 9 credit hours from another program will count as this breadth requirement.

Requirement VII: No more than 42 credit hours (including the common first-year courses) may be at the 1000-level.

#### **APPROVAL DATES**

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| Date of submission            | <b>May 10, 2016</b>                                     |
| Curriculum Committee approval | <b>May 18, 2016; revised 16 January 2018</b>            |
| Faculty Council approval      | <b>May 24, 2016; revisions approved 23 January 2018</b> |
| CPRC Recommendation           | <b>19 January 2018</b>                                  |
| Academic Council Approval     |   |