

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 22 February 2022

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Engineering in Nuclear Engineering

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, pursuant to the recommendation of USC, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Engineering in Nuclear Engineering.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Program is proposing the addition of a co-op degree designation option. This option is identical to the Co-Op approved by Academic Council in November 2021 for all FEAS Bachelor of Engineering programs. During the discussion it was reiterated that there are some concerns around inconsistencies between different co-op options in multiple programs. Some members indicated that having different requirements might be beneficial. The Chair indicated that all feedback has been noted and he confirmed plans for this to be discussed as part of a University-wide initiative to update the policy instruments related to experiential learning.

- Addition of the co-op option
 - Students who successfully complete three or more co-op work terms will have the co-op designation appear on their degree parchment
 - Students will be required to complete a Professional Competencies course prior to participating in their first co-op placement

These are suggested changes to the structure and delivery of the program to improve student experience and satisfaction, as well as address Government of Canada requirements for students to participate in co-op/internship opportunities at government agencies. The proposed changes have been developed in such a way to wholly enrich the program.

The proposed modifications will address current challenges of the existing non-degree co-op and internship program, such as students not attaching the co-op to their program requirements to avoid paying the work term fee, the Government of Canada has removed the engineering programs from the list of those eligible for co-op/internship opportunities because it is not currently a degree requirement, issues with employer follow-up and communication, students not following the requirements to complete the work report and register in many courses while they are also on a placement, international students are not eligible to participate in co-op and internship because it is not a degree requirement. The new option will address these challenges and allow students to retain student status for purposes such as OSAP repayment. It will also have a clearer structure and the necessary resources to support students. A new online course will prepare students for the realities and expectations of the professional world.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No new faculty members are needed as a result of this addition. Resources are shared with the previously approved FEAS Bachelor of Engineering Co-Op programs.

TRANSITION PLAN:

The program is expected to be operational starting Fall 2022. All current students can apply to the program, including students who have successfully completed 3 co-op work terms so long as they have attached to the Co-op program for all work terms and completed all the required work term reports and other required documentation.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

Undergraduate Studies Committee: 18 January 2022
FESNS Faculty Council: April, 2021; December, 2021
Engineering Faculty Council: May, 2021; October 2021
Engineering Curriculum Committee: April, 2021

The Faculty has been working closely with CIQE and the Registrar's Office discussing implementation options.

NEXT STEPS:

- Pending the approval of Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Major Program Modification Proposal](#)