

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION

PRESENTED BY: Terry Wotherspoon; Chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: June 21, 2018

SUBJECT: Admissions Qualifications change – Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.)

DECISION REQUESTED:

*It is recommended:
That Council approve the proposed changes to the admissions qualifications for the Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) program, effective the 2020-21 admission cycle.*

PURPOSE:

Changes to admissions qualifications require approval by University Council and confirmation by University Senate.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The College of Dentistry is looking to make changes to admissions qualifications for students applying for the DMD program as part of anticipated changes to the DMD program. The recommended changes would add NUTR 120.3 and BMSC 210.3 as requirements for admission and remove PHYS 117.3/125.3 as a requirement for admission.

The College is looking to move some didactic content out of the program and making it a requirement of admission, to allow for more and earlier opportunities for clinical experience in the DMD program. Additionally, the changes reflect the understanding that Nutrition is a critical topic to oral health that is underrepresented in the program currently. The removal of PHYS 117.3/125.3 does not impact applicants' base knowledge required in that area as the necessary physics of radiology are covered within an applied dental course in the first year in the program.

FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED:

University Senate will be asked to confirm this decision at their October 2018 meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposal for Academic or Curricular Change: College of Dentistry Admission Requirement Changes



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

Proposal for Academic or Curricular Change

PROPOSAL IDENTIFICATION

Title of proposal: College of Dentistry Admission Requirement Changes

Degree(s): Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)

Field(s) of Specialization: Dentistry

Level(s) of Concentration:

Option(s):

Degree College: Dentistry

Contact person(s) (name, telephone, fax, e-mail):

1. Dr. D. Brothwell, Dean, douglas.brothwell@usask.ca; 306-966-5122
2. Dr. D. Ardenghi, Associate Dean Academic (Acting), diego.ardenghi@usask.ca; 306-966-5107
3. Dr. D. Kolbinson, Curriculum Review Steering Committee (Chair), dean.kolbinson@usask.ca; 306-966-5070
4. Janice Cruise, Curriculum Review Steering Committee, janice.cruise@usask.ca; 306-966-5126
5. Kelly Mulligan, Director, Student and Academic Affairs, kelly.mulligan@usask.ca; 306-966-2760

Proposed date of implementation: 2020-2021 Admissions Cycle

Proposal Document

Please provide information which covers the following sub topics.

1. ACADEMIC JUSTIFICATION

This section is not applicable for this particular application, as this document addresses changes to admissions that will be required for changes to a program that are currently being explored within the College.

2. CURRENT ADMISSIONS

The College currently requires 3 years of undergraduate education and includes the following University of Saskatchewan courses (or equivalent):

BIOL 120.3 and BIOL 121.3 or BIOL 224.3 or BMSC 224.3

CHEM 112.3 and CHEM 250.3

PHYS 115.3 and PHYS 117.3 or PHYS 125.3

BMSC 200.3 and BMSC 230.3

PHSI 208.6 or PHPY 302.3 and PHPY 303.3

Six credit units of social science and/or humanities courses

3. RATIONALE FOR CHANGES TO ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR CURRENT OR NEW PROGRAM

This statement should include information about program objectives, need for the program, demand, uniqueness, student outcomes including employment or academic opportunities, and the expertise of the sponsoring unit. Please specify how this proposal relates to department/college plans and to Systematic Program Review or other review recommendations.

1. ***The College of Dentistry is requesting approval to change the admission requirements such that applicants have the following additional courses as pre-requisites for admission into the DMD program:***
 - a) **NUTR 120.3 Basic Nutrition**
 - b) **BMSC 210.3 Microbiology**

The rationale for this change is as follows:

1. ***Changes to College of Medicine curriculum.*** *Currently the College of Dentistry Year One students take one major course (18 CU) with the College of Medicine. With significant changes to their curriculum, this course no longer meets the academic needs of our dental students but still consumes a large percentage of their first year didactic hours, as our students have different pre-requisite requirements. The College has already started the process of change including the content areas of pharmacology, anatomy, pathology, histology and embryology. The addition of Basic Nutrition and Microbiology as admission requirements will ensure the students have the necessary background courses to begin applied studies in dentistry without continuing in the basic science course with the College of Medicine. The College of Dentistry at Dalhousie added microbiology to their admission requirements when they recently renewed their curriculum. Nutrition is a critical topic to oral health care and is currently under-represented in our program.*
2. ***Earlier clinical experiences.*** *Our College has been known to graduate students with strong clinical skills. However, as technology and techniques continue to advance and expand in the field of dentistry, there are increasing demands to add content to our curriculum in order to maintain the strong clinical skills our students have been able to historically achieve upon graduation. Making some didactic content a prerequisite to admission is an important component in the College's plans. These plans include having the students start clinical care at an earlier stage of their program. This will help ensure that they achieve sufficient clinical experience to be competent before graduation. Earlier clinical experiences will enhance the program such that our students*

not only have the physical skills required by a dentist, but also the social and humanistic skills required by an expert clinician. Earlier clinical experiences are a realistic goal if our students enter the College with many of the basic foundational sciences required to begin applied studies in dentistry.

3. **Outreach experience.** *A curriculum review began in the fall of 2016. One of the key changes to the current student experience is not only earlier clinical experiences, but also the opportunity to increase clinical experiences outside of the University Dental Clinic. A change to admission requirements and a restructuring of the first two years of pre-clinical courses should provide additional time in the clinic, thus preparing fourth year students for experiences beyond the Dental Clinic floor.*

2. The College of Dentistry is requesting approval to change the admission requirements to remove the following course as a pre-requisite:

a. PHYS 117.3/125.3

The rationale for this change is as follows:

1. **To continue to offer maximum flexibility to applicants.** *The majority of topics in Physics that are related to the study of dentistry are included in the course PHYS 115.3 with the exception of those related to radiology. The necessary physics of radiology would be taught to students within an applied dental course in first year.*

4. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

Please include a complete draft Calendar entry. In particular, please indicate if a template is already in place for such a program (for example, if it follows the general requirements and standards of B.Sc. programs) or if new standards are being introduced for this program. When existing courses are listed, please include the course title as well as the course number.

Not applicable. The DMD program is an established degree program.

5. RESOURCES

Please describe what resources will be required by the new or revised program. Include information about the impact this proposal will have on resources used by existing programs. Please indicate whether the program be handled within the existing resources of the department or college (eg, faculty, secretarial support, equipment, information technology, laboratories, library resources, space, etc) or whether additional resources from the college or from PCIP will be required. Include any required memos from the Dean or department heads regarding resources, on the online portal.

Not applicable. Additional resources are not required for the proposed changes.

6. RELATIONSHIPS AND IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION

Please describe the impact this program will have on department activities and on students, and on other departments or colleges. Describe the consultation process followed for this program. Include any memos received, or have them attached to the online portal.

1. Impact on Departmental Activities

Not applicable. The proposed changes will not impact any departmental activities.

2. Impact on Students/Applicants

The proposed change to increase the pre-requisites will not have a significant impact on students applying to the dental program. Students currently require three years of study to be admitted to the College, and the net addition of three credit units is easily achievable. These specific courses will better prepare students to be successful in the program.

The course work that has been added would easily be incorporated into a variety of degree programs. As previously mentioned, seats in a dental program are highly competitive with more applications received than spots available. Having course work towards a degree program will broaden the students' career opportunities and ensure that applicants have a back-up plan should they not be successful at being accepted into a dental program.

Additionally, these courses would be natural choices for students applying to the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Medicine and Nursing and would strengthen the students' likelihood of success in the College of Dentistry as well as the aforementioned other colleges.

Basic Nutrition is an introductory course with three offerings: one in first semester and two in second semester (one face-to-face and one online). The indication from the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition is that although the two face-to-face are typically full, there is room in the online course. The course is a natural fit for online as it does not have a laboratory component. Students today are both familiar with and adept at online study. Some applicants to the program have taken Basic Nutrition during their initial studies. We would like to see that for all applicants.

Microbiology is a second year course, to which our students already require the prerequisites to enter the course. Again some applicants have taken this course and the College believes that the topic is a critical part of oral health care.

3. Impact on other Colleges/Departments

Given that applicants are already required to have three years of university courses working towards a degree and that the pre-requisites added would be a natural fit within that requirement, there should be minimal impact upon other departments. Drs. Yvonne Shevchuk and Jo-Anne Dillon were all contacted by email to inform them of the possible changes to pre-requisites for the College. A phone conversation with Dr. Shevchuk provided the opportunity for further discussions to take place. Dr. Dillon responded by email that she did not see a problem with BMSC 210 and that overall, increased enrollments are welcome. Dr. Shevchuk explained that although the first semester face-to-face course was always full, but in the second semester, an online course could accommodate extra students. (See Appendix A.)

7. BUDGET

Please indicate if budget allocations within the department or the college will change due to this program.

Not applicable. Budgetary changes are not required for the proposed changes.

College Statement

Please provide here or attach to the online portal, a statement from the College which contains the following:

- Recommendation from the College regarding the program
- Description of the College process used to arrive at that recommendation
- Summary of issues that the College discussed and how they were resolved

The College of Dentistry is requesting approval for two changes to be implemented for the 2020-2021 admissions cycle: (1) increasing the pre-requisite course requirements to include NUTR 120.3 and BMSC 210.3; (2) decreasing the pre-requisite course requirement in physics by removing PHYS 117.3/125.3. The net results will increase the pre-requisite course requirement by three credit units. Proposed changes were reviewed extensively and approved by the Foundational Sciences Working Group, Curriculum Review Steering Committee, Admissions Committee, Undergraduate Education Committee, and Executive Committee. Pre-requisite additional courses were also approved by Faculty Council. The proposed changes will not be effective until the 2020-2021 admissions cycle to accompany the beginning of a renewed curriculum that is currently being planned and approved by the College Faculty.

Since our meeting with the APC and resulting memo of concerns, specific faculty with expertise in immunology, the Curriculum Review Steering Committee, Director of Student and Academic Affairs, Associate Dean Academic and the Dean have been consulted with to discuss and determine the best path forward. The Department of Physics was contacted by email to invite a conversation either by phone or in person. Once the College has heard back from the APC regarding this revised proposal, Drs. Mohammed, Shevchuk, Dillon and Bull will be contacted to ensure they are aware of the decision.

The College believes the proposed changes are in the best interests of the applicants. Increasing the prerequisite course work requirement provides applicants with the background they require for the rigorous demands of a dental program. The change in pre-requisite admission requirements will provide the foundational science background required to begin the applied study of dentistry and will allow for earlier focused time with patients, more time for applied dental courses and the opportunity for enhanced outreach experiences in the final year of dentistry.

Related Documentation

At the online portal, attach any related documentation which is relevant to this proposal to the online portal, such as:

- Excerpts from the College Plan and Planning Parameters
- SPR recommendations
- Relevant sections of the College plan
- Accreditation review recommendations
- Letters of support
- Memos of consultation

It is particularly important for Council committees to know if curriculum changes are being made in response to College Plans and Planning Parameters, review recommendations or accreditation recommendations.

Consultation Forms

At the online portal, attach the following forms, as required

Required for all submissions:

Consultation with the Registrar form

Required for all new courses:

Course proposal forms

OR Calendar-draft list of new and revised courses

Required if resources needed:

Information Technology Requirements form

Library Requirements form

Physical Resource Requirements form

Budget Consultation form

Appendix A

Email received April 4, 2018

Hello Janice,

We are pleased that the College of Dentistry recognizes nutrition knowledge as important for dentists. Nutrition 120 is offered on campus in Term 1 and Term 2 and is generally full. We have no capacity to increase as it is in the largest theatre on campus (Health E1150). The course is also offered online in Term 2 with no enrollment limit which should allow sufficient access to the course.

Yvonne Shevchuk

Yvonne M. Shevchuk, Pharm.D., FCSHP

Associate Dean Academic

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

University of Saskatchewan

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306 966-6330 (telephone)

306 966-6377 (FAX)

Website: www.usask.ca/pharmacy-nutrition

Email received April 6, 2018

Hello Janice

I don't think we have a problem with BMSC 210. Can you tell me how many students might be taking MCIM321?

Overall, we welcome increased enrolments.

Jo-Anne

Jo-Anne R Dillon PhD, FCAHS, FRSC

Distinguished Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology and Immunology

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