

Academic Programs Committee of Council

University Course Challenge

Scheduled posting: **August 2026**

Date of circulation: **August 17, 2026**

Date approval is effective if no challenge received: **August 31, 2026**

Curricular and program changes approved by University Course Challenge include additions and deletions of courses, lower levels of study and program options; straightforward program changes; and curricular changes which affect other colleges.

Included are submissions for information and approval from the following colleges and schools:

College of Agriculture and Bioresources

College of Arts and Science

College of Engineering

College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

School of Environment and Sustainability

The next scheduled posting will be **September 15, 2026** with a submission deadline of **September 11, 2026**. Urgent items can be posted on request.

Please direct challenges to both of the following: seanine.warrington@usask.ca in the Registrar's Office and danielle.rudulier@usask.ca in the Governance Office.

College of Agriculture and Bioresources – University Course Challenge August 2026

The following changes were approved through the College of Agriculture and Bioresources Undergraduate Affairs Committee and are now submitted to the University Course Challenge for approval.

Contact: Megan Loessl (megan.loessl@usask.ca)

New Course

PLSC 388.3

Grassland Prescribed Fire

An introduction to grassland prescribed fire. The role of prescribed fire in rangeland management will be covered including fire prescriptions for a range of management goals. Practical training including fireline safety, prescribed fire tools, holding and ignition skills, and fire planning will be emphasized. Weather permitting, students will participate in a live fire operation. There are additional non-refundable costs in addition to tuition fees.

Instructor permission is required

Prerequisites: Completion of 30 cus of coursework

Note: Students with credit for PLSC 398 “**Grassland Prescribed Fire**” will not receive credit to this course.

Weekly Hours: 1 Lecture hours and 2 Practicum/Lab hours

Rationale: The introduction of *Grassland Prescribed Fire* responds to a growing need for practical, science-based training in the use of prescribed fire as a land management tool. Across grassland and rangeland ecosystems, prescribed fire is increasingly recognized as an effective method for managing invasive species, improving forage production, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing accumulated fuels, and supporting overall ecosystem health.

A key strength of this course is its emphasis on hands-on learning. Students will gain practical experience in fireline safety, fire planning, ignition techniques, holding operations, and the proper use of prescribed fire equipment. Where conditions allow, participation in a live fire operation will provide valuable real-world experience that cannot be replicated in a classroom environment. Due to the inherent risks associated with fire operations and the specialized nature of the training, instructor permission is required to ensure participants are adequately prepared and that safety standards are maintained. Additional course fees reflect the costs associated with specialized equipment, safety resources, training materials, and field-based instruction. By equipping students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, the course helps prepare graduates to contribute safely and effectively to prescribed fire programs and sustainable grassland management initiatives.

This course has been offered once as a Special Topic class (PLSC 398) and will be offered again as PLSC 398 in Fall 2026. The regularized PLSC 388 will be offered for the first time in Fall 2027.

University Course Challenge – August 2026

The curricular revisions listed below were approved through the Arts & Science College Course and Program Challenge, and by the relevant college-level Academic Programs Committee, and are now submitted to the University Course Challenge for approval.

Contact: Alexis Dahl (alexis.dahl@usask.ca)

Item for Information

Statistics

Update to course note:

STAT 103.3 Elementary Probability

Note: Credit will not be granted for STAT 103.3 if it is taken concurrently with or after STAT 241.3 or STAT 242.3. **Students may take STAT 103 for credit before, concurrently with, or after STAT 244 and/or one of STAT 245 or STAT 246. Students may NOT take STAT 103 for credit either concurrently with or following a 300-level course or higher in STAT.** Please refer to the Statistics Course Regulations in the Arts & Science section of the Course and Program Catalogue.

Rationale: The added note first appeared on the Statistics program page in the 2024-25 Catalogue. It is added to this course note as well for greater visibility.

College of Engineering, University Course Challenge – August 2026

The following change has been approved by the College of Engineering and is now being submitted to University Course Challenge.

For Information

CE 213.3: Mechanics of Materials

Building upon the concepts introduced in the courses in statics and dynamics and the properties of engineering materials, this course extends equilibrium analysis to deformable bodies. Emphasis is placed on understanding and applying the three fundamental concepts of solid mechanics - equilibrium, constitutive relationships, and geometry of deformation (compatibility). The fundamentals are introduced and reinforced in the context of specific behaviors, including axial tension and compression, pure bending, bending in combination with shear, and torsion of circular shafts. Transformation of stress in two dimensions is introduced.

Restriction(s): Restricted to students in Civil, Geological, and Environmental Engineering.

Prerequisite(s): GE 123.3 ~~and [GE 183.2 or CHE 113.3]~~

Note: Students with credit for GE 213.3 may not receive credit for this course.

Rationale:

GE 183 was added as a program requirement for CE in the 2025-26, and was added as a prerequisite for CE 213 in 2026-27. However, the college has now realized that a significant number of students take 'first year' engineering over two years, so students that entered two years ago would not have been required to take GE 183. In hindsight, they should have waited another year before making GE 183 a prerequisite for CE 213.

University Course Challenge – August 2026

The curricular revisions listed below were approved through the Graduate Programs Committee of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and are now submitted to the University Course Challenge for approval.

Contact: Chelsea Smith, CGPS Academic Affairs and Governance Specialist (chelsea.smith@usask.ca or gradprograms.academicaffairs@usask.ca)

EDUCATION

New Courses:

ERES 801.3 Introduction to Reading Evaluating and Using Educational Research

This course develops students' capacity to critically read, use, and mobilize educational research within their own professional and scholarly contexts. Emphasizing application and evaluation, the course scaffolds students in locating, appraising, and synthesizing empirical studies to inform decision making, program design, and/or scholarly writing in education. Students will interpret and compare qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches relevant to their areas of interest, and will construct an argument-driven literature review suitable for inclusion in a thesis, capstone project, or professional report. Students will learn the value and process of peer review in academia and will be required to perform a structured peer review of classmates' work. Through structured peer review, critique of published studies, and iterative drafting, students will also practice communicating research insights to academic, professional, and practitioner audiences in the form of a presentation.

Permission required: College of Education Graduate Chair or Associate Dean of Research

Restrictions: Open to students in the College of Education

Rationale: This course is intended to scaffold learning to read and evaluate scholarly articles and emphasizes the process of assessing and applying research to students' professional lives. Students will develop the scientific literacy skills needed to locate and vet data-driven articles, make decisions informed by empirical data, and construct a rigorous literature review. Students will learn the basic language and characteristics of different types of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches used in research, with emphasis given to students' educational areas of interest. Students will also learn the value and process of conducting peer review in academia. This course will benefit students across a variety of disciplines, including social, behavioral, and health sciences.

GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

New Courses

SYNC 811.3 Introduction to Synchrotron Sciences

Develop a basic understanding of the properties of synchrotron light and how it can be used to give insights in a range of scientific area and methods available at the Canadian Light Source.

Restrictions: INSPIRE Fellow or Instructor approval

Rationale: This course has been offered as SYNC 898 for the past 3 years and is a core requisite for NSERC-CREATE to INSPIRE Students. One of the legacies of the INSPIRE program is to have a listed graduate course in Synchrotron Sciences.

For Information

NURSING

NURS 840.3: Nurse Practitioner Clinical Residency I

Current Prerequisites: NURS 836 or NURS 875 AND NURS 835

Proposed prerequisites: NURS 835 and 836 or NURS 875

Proposed Prerequisites or Corequisites: NURS 837

NURS 842.3: Nurse Practitioner Clinical Residency III

Current Prerequisite(s): NURS 841.3; NURS 838.3.

Proposed Prerequisite(s): NURS 841.3

Proposed Prerequisites or Corequisites: NURS 839.3

School of Environment and Sustainability – University Course Challenge, August 2026

The following new course has been approved by the School of Environment and Sustainability and is being proposed to University Course Challenge for final approval:

New Course Proposal

ENVS 413.3 Numerical Modelling for Environmental Scientists and Engineers

This course provides students with a set of modelling skills to solve a range of water-related environmental problems. The models help us to think through physical processes and interpret observations. Students will learn to critically assess modelling studies as will be needed throughout their careers.

Permission of the instructor is required.

Prerequisite: Students should have a strong mathematics background, particularly in basic calculus.

Note: Students may have credit for only one of ENVS 413 and ENVS 813.

Rationale: ENVS 813 has been offered to grad students from SENS, Geography, Geology and Engineering for about 15 years. It is a popular class that delivers computational skills needed by graduates in the workplace. There are typically between 12–20 students take the class when it is offered. The instructor has the capacity to open the class to up to 30 students and would like to allow undergraduate Engineering students to also take a modified version this as an elective, ENVS 413. As such, ENVS 413 and 813 would be academically cross-listed. Engineering students should all have the necessary background to be successful in the class. This will expose the students to new skills on a deeper level than their previous classes and will also provide them a chance to think about graduate studies.