



Report of the Senate Education Committee

FOR INFORMATION

Presented by: Robert Henderson, Chair, Education Committee

Date of Meeting: April 26, 2024

Subject: Education Committee – Report on Activities

Summary of Activities:

The members of the Education Committee are Robert Henderson (chair), Nathalie Atanasova, Kathy Gable, Jane MacLeod, Russ Isinger, Meghna Ramaswamy, and Brock Neufeldt. Since the date of the last Senate meeting, the committee met once on January 31, 2025.

Secretary Demkiw joined members to discuss possible changes to the scope of the Education Committee with plans to revive the Engagement Committee which would have a responsibility for the education topic for Senate meetings. The direction of the Education Committee of Senate has gradually shifted over the years with a more academic focus given the additional responsibility to confirm admission qualification decisions. The intention of this change would then be to involve the Education Committee in more academic focused initiatives at the university such as enrolment planning, establishment of departments, schools and colleges, etc. Members present at the meeting were supportive in principle of the proposed changes and look forward to being more actively involved in academic activities taking place at USask.

Changes to Admission Qualifications

The *Senate Bylaws* delegate the Education Committee the authority to confirm changes to admissions qualifications (that have received approval from University Council) (part V, section 8, clause d).

Quorum was not met at the January meeting; however, members present engaged in meaningful discussion with Academic Programs Committee Chair Carolyn Augusta on four Admission Qualification Changes. Following the meeting, an email vote was conducted for the four motions between February 3-6, 2025, all of which were passed.

1. English Language Proficiency in Graduate Nursing Programs
2. Master of Nursing: Nurse Practitioner Admission Requirements
3. Bachelor of Science in Nursing Humanities Deficiency
4. Master of Physical Therapy Prerequisite Additions

1. English Language Proficiency in Graduate Nursing Programs

Background:

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is recommending the approval of admission requirement changes for the above graduate programs in the College of Nursing. The proposed changes will require a higher than minimum standard in English Language Proficiency, bringing the standard in line with many of the other U15 universities and align more closely to the USask BSN requirement.

Consultation:

On August 23, 2024, the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies put forward a proposal to the Academic Programs Committee of Council (APC), recommending the approval of admission requirement changes for graduate programs in the College of Nursing to require higher than minimum standards in English Language Proficiency. The proposed changes were reviewed by APC on September 10, 2024, and again on October 23, 2024. After fulsome discussions and revision suggestions, the committee was supportive of the revised proposal. Furthermore, [Council approved this change on November 21, 2024](#) and the Seante Education Committee confirmed this change on February 6, 2025.

Motion: (Gable/Henderson) It is recommended that the Senate Education Committee confirm Council's approval of the new English language proficiency test score requirements for admission to all graduate programs (MN-Thesis, the MN-Professional Practice (CB), the MN-NP, and the PhD) in the College of Nursing effective for the 2026-2027 admission intake year.

2. Master of Nursing: Nurse Practitioner Admission Requirements

Background:

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is proposing a replacement program for the Master of Nursing: Nurse Practitioner program including an increase to the cumulative weighed average and addition of a statement of intent and up-to-date CV.

The admission cutoff grade of 75% reflects the high academic standards necessary for success in this competitive program. As nurse practitioners take on advanced clinical responsibilities in diagnosing and prescribing, applicants must demonstrate not only solid academic performance but also a strong foundation in their role as Registered Nurses (RNs). The 75% cutoff helps ensure that candidates possess the knowledge and critical thinking skills needed for the rigorous graduate level coursework and clinical practice ahead.

Requiring a statement of intent and an up-to-date CV allows the admissions committee to assess each candidate's professional experience, career goals, and commitment to advanced practice nursing. These documents provide insight into the candidate's ability to succeed in the program by highlighting their practical experience, leadership potential, and readiness to take on more complex clinical responsibilities and graduate level education.

Consultation:

On January 8, 2025, the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the College of Nursing brought forward the proposal to the Academic Programs Committee of Council (APC). Members had the opportunity to review the proposal, ask questions and participate in a thorough discussion. APC voted in favour of this replacement program and admission changes. [Council approved this change on January 30, 2025](#), and the Seante Education Committee confirmed this change on February 6, 2025.

Motion (MacLeod/Henderson) *It is recommended that the Senate Education Committee confirm Council's approval of the admission requirements for the Master of Nursing: Nurse Practitioner Program effective for the 2026-2027 admission intake year.*

3. Bachelor of Science in Nursing Humanities Deficiency**Background:**

The College of Nursing is proposing a new deficiency for admission to the BSN program. Pending approval, students will be eligible for admission to the B.S.N. if they are deficient in a Humanities course. Currently students are allowed a deficiency in the Social Sciences; therefore, this is an additional deficiency that students would have to satisfy within their first term upon admission. A student may only have one deficiency on the list; the intent here is to add a subject to the list of potential deficiencies.

Consultation:

On December 4, 2024, the College of Nursing brought forward a proposal to the Academic Programs Committee of Council (APC). Members reviewed the deficiency proposal and voted in favour of the change. Furthermore, [Council approved this change on December 19, 2024](#) and the Seante Education Committee confirmed this change on February 6, 2025.

Motion (Henderson/Gable) *It is recommended that the Senate Education Committee confirm Council's approval of the humanities deficiency admission requirement in the pre-professional requirements to the B.S.N. effective for the 2026-2027 admission intake year.*

4. Master of Physical Therapy Prerequisite Additions**Background:**

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is proposing admission requirement changes for the Master of Physical Therapy program, to add additional prerequisite courses from the Social Sciences and Humanities, Psychology, and Indigenous Studies. The current pre-requisite courses include Anatomy (3 credit units), Physiology (6 credit units) and Statistics (3 credit units). The USask MPT program pre-

requisite requirements are the fewest compared to all other accredited Canadian Physical Therapy education programs.

The University of Saskatchewan MPT program has a responsibility to educate students in accordance with the Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC) competency standards. In 2020, PEAC added two criteria (5.4 and 5.5) specific to social justice, human rights, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Additionally, USask has a mandate to specifically address the calls to action identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's report.

Consultation:

On December 18, 2024, the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the School of Rehabilitation Science brought forward a proposal to the Academic Programs Committee of Council (APC). Members had the opportunity to review the proposal, ask questions and participate in a thorough discussion. APC voted in favour of this admission requirement. [Council approved this change on January 30, 2025](#), and the Senate Education Committee confirmed this change on February 6, 2025.

Motion (Gable/MacLeod) It is recommended that the Senate Education Committee confirm Council's approval of the additional admission requirements for the Master of Physical Therapy Program effective for the 2026-2027 admission intake year.

Next Steps and Timeline:

The Education Committee is scheduled to meet next on May 22, 2025.