



MEMORANDUM

To: Executive Committee of Faculty Council (March 21, 2017)
Faculty Council (April 10, 2017)

From: Professor Markus Bussmann
Chair, Engineering Graduate Education Committee

Date: March 17, 2017

Re: Increasing Length of Civil Engineering's MSc Program

REPORT CLASSIFICATION

This is a major policy matter that will be considered by the Executive Committee for endorsing and forwarding to Faculty Council for vote as a regular motion (requiring a simple majority of members present and voting to carry).

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

The Department of Civil Engineering proposes to increase the length of its MSc program from 20 months to 24 months (five sessions to six sessions). This will more accurately reflect the time it generally takes students to complete their programs, which is 20 to 24 months with the majority currently requiring 24 months.

This change will help students better manage their expectations and monitor their progress, and will make the program length consistent with the majority of MSc degree programs in the Faculty, which for all but one are 24 months.

PROCESS AND CONSULTATION

The attached proposal was drafted and approved by the Department of Civil Engineering, with input from the Dean's Office. It has been approved by the Engineering Graduate Education Committee, which includes the graduate chairs from graduate departments and institutes, and graduate student representatives.

PROPOSAL/MOTION

THAT the length of the Master of Applied Science (MSc) program in Civil Engineering be increased from 20 months to 24 months, as described in Report 3542, effective September 2017.

University of Toronto

Major Modification Proposal: Significant Modifications to Existing Graduate and Undergraduate Programs

Program being modified:	Master of Applied Science (MASc)
Proposed Major Modification:	Increasing program length from 20 months to 24 months
Department / Unit:	Civil Engineering
Faculty / Academic Division:	Applied Science & Engineering
Dean's Office contact:	Professor Markus Bussmann, Vice-Dean, Graduate Studies
Proponent:	Professor Susan Andrews, Associate Chair of Graduate Studies, Civil Engineering
Version Date:	March 14, 2017

1 Summary

The Department of Civil Engineering is proposing to change the program length of the MASc program from 20 months to 24 months (5 sessions to 6 sessions).

2 Effective Date

September 2017.

3 Academic Rationale

The rationale for this proposed change is help Civil Engineering's MASc students better manage their expectations and monitor their progress. It generally takes them 20-24 months to complete their programs, with the majority currently requiring 24 months.

The change will also align the Civil Engineering MASc program length to be consistent with the Faculty's MASc degree programs in Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Materials Science & Engineering, and Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, which are all 24 months in length. Only one other department in FASE has a 20-month MASc program.

4 Description of the Proposed Major Modification

Changing the program length from 20 months to 24 months (5 sessions to 6 sessions) will only, but significantly, help to manage students' expectations and monitor their progress through their programs. It will not change what the students will know or be able to do when they complete their program, or the MASc graduate degree level expectations and learning outcomes.

5 Impact of the Change on Students

The proposed change will have a positive impact on students. It generally takes MASc students in the Department of Civil Engineering 20-24 months to complete their programs, with the majority currently requiring 24 months. This is consistent with the majority of MASc degree programs in the Faculty, which are 24 months in program length. The proposed change formalizes the department's commitment to funding these students for a sixth session to complete their MASc studies. Students will not pay more in tuition, as enrolment in the summer session is included in the program fee.

6 Impact of the Change on Other Programs

Changing the program length to 24 months will have no impact on other programs, as typically our programs start in the Fall session and end in the Summer session.

In addition, the change in program structure will allow the Civil Engineering MASc to be consistent with other MASc degree programs in the Faculty, which are typically 24 months in program length.

The change also addresses concerns from some MASc students who have been unsure of their financial support should their work go beyond 20 months. The proposed change makes it clear that MASc students will be financially supported until the end of the sixth term (24 months).

7 Consultation

The Department of Civil Engineering and the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering's Dean's Office have been consulted in the writing of this proposal.

8 Resources

This change is not expected to have any resource implications.

9 UTQAP Process

Steps	Approvals
Development/consultation within unit (Department of Civil Engineering)	Feb 2017
Consultation with Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering Dean's Office and Office of Vice-Provost, Academic Programs	Mar 2017
Unit level approval as appropriate	Feb-Mar 2017
Engineering Graduate Education Committee (EGEC) approval as appropriate	Feb-Mar 2017
Faculty Council approval	Apr 10, 2017
Submission to Office of Vice-Provost, Academic Programs	Apr 2017
Committee on Academic Policy & Programs (AP&P) – reported annually	May 2017
Ontario Quality Council – reported annually	Jul 2017

Appendix A: Proposed Calendar Copy

Master of Applied Science

Minimum Admission Requirements

- Applicants are admitted under the General Regulations of the School of Graduate Studies. Applicants must also satisfy the Department of Civil Engineering's additional admission requirements stated below.
- Students who do not possess an undergraduate degree in civil engineering may be required to take more than the usual time and number of courses.

Program Requirements

- Each student, in consultation with a staff member at the beginning of the program, will establish the distribution of time between coursework and thesis or design project.
- Normally, a minimum of 2.5 full-course equivalents (FCEs) (five half courses) and a thesis. Some sections may require 3.0 FCEs (six half courses) and a thesis. Consult the supervisor and/or refer to the departmental graduate student handbook for further details.
- Students in the MASc program have the option of completing an emphasis in [Sustainable Energy](#) as part of their degree program. Please see details below.

Program Length

~~5 sessions full-time (typical registration sequence: F/W/S/F/W)~~

6 sessions full-time (typical registration sequence: F/W/S/F/W/S)

Time Limit

3 years full-time