University of Toronto
Closure of an Existing Program (graduate or undergraduate)
Proposal
(This template has been developed in line with the University of Toronto’s Quality Assurance Process. The process followed for the closure of any program is the same as that required for the approval of any new such program.)

Section 1

| Closure Proposed: Two concentrations within the Master of Information (MI) Program |
| Department / Unit (if applicable): Faculty of Information |
| Faculty / Academic Division: Information |
| Faculty / Academic Division contact: Seamus Ross, Dean |
| Department / Unit contact: Seamus Ross, Dean |
| Effective date program will be closed to new admissions: immediately. |
| Effective date of full closure of program: immediately. |

Version Date: 18 January 2013

Section 2

Brief Summary

This is a proposal to close two concentrations in the MI Program, i.e., Cultural Heritage and Philosophy of Information. These two concentrations will continue to exist as such in the PhD program.
1. **Rationale**

At a Faculty Council meeting on May 4, 2012, the Faculty of Information approved a proposal to transition the seven existing, approved fields within the Master of Information (MI) and PhD Programs – Archives and Records Management, Critical Information Studies, Cultural Heritage, Information Systems and Design, Knowledge Management and Information Management, Library and Information Science, and Philosophy of Information – to concentrations.

At two subsequent Faculty Council meetings (June 15 and Nov. 30, 2012), the Faculty of Information approved proposals that established the framework within which the MI concentrations would operate as well as the specific course requirements for five of these concentrations, i.e.,

- Archives and Records Management
- Critical Information Studies
- Information Systems and Design
- Knowledge Management and Information Management
- Library and Information Science.

These five concentrations formerly were referred to within the Faculty of Information as “pre-approved paths” and the course requirements identified for each of these concentrations were largely consistent with the course requirements previously identified for each of the five pre-approved paths before their transition to concentrations. All five of these concentrations had a cohort of MI students associated with them.

The situation with the other two concentrations, i.e., Cultural Heritage and Philosophy of Information, was quite different. Neither of these concentrations had existed as a pre-approved path prior to its transition to a concentration in the MI program and so there wasn’t any specific program of study nor any MI students associated with either of them. In the June 15 proposal, we stated that we were not proposing to admit MI students into the two concentrations for the 2013-2014 academic year since we would need to develop a set of course requirements for these concentrations consistent with the other MI concentrations and it was not clear to us that it made sense to do so.

After Faculty discussion, we have decided to close these concentrations on the grounds that MI students’ interest in cultural heritage and philosophy of information may be supported through current course offerings and programs. For example, in 2009 the Faculty approved a Concurrent Registration Option which enables students to complete both MI and Master of Museum Studies (MMSt) degrees within three years. This option reduces the need for a Cultural Heritage concentration at the MI level since the original intent behind introducing Cultural Heritage as a
field in the MI program was to create a bridge between the MI and MMSt programs. Similarly, the need to develop a concentration in Philosophy of Information at the MI level has been reduced by the introduction of a new concentration in Culture and Technology which was approved at our Faculty Council meeting of Nov. 30 2012. This new concentration was envisaged as falling within the previous field of Philosophy of Information.

At the PhD level, the concentrations signal areas of research expertise within the Faculty of Information rather than programs of study with specific course requirements and so it makes sense for Cultural Heritage and Philosophy of Information to remain as concentrations within the doctoral program.

2. Impact on other programs/units of the proposed closure

Since no students were ever enrolled in these concentrations this proposal will not have any impact on other programs in the Faculty of Information.

3. Student Accommodation

Not applicable for reasons given in 3.

4. Faculty / Staff Accommodation

What is the impact, if any, on faculty and staff of the closure?

As above, not applicable.

5. Governance Process

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<td>Approved by Faculty Programs Committee January 18, 2013</td>
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<td>Submission to Provost’s Office</td>
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AP&P (approval of program closures: undergrad specialists/majors; minors where there is no specialist of major; graduate fields or diploma, and collaborative programs)

Academic Board (approval of degree, graduate program, diploma closures)

Executive Committee of Governing Council (executive confirms degree, grad program, closures)

**Inclusion in Annual report to Quality Council**

**Inclusion in Annual report to MTCU (in case of closure of degree)**

*Developed by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs: February 27, 2012*