University of Toronto
Major Modification Proposal – Type A: Significant modifications to existing graduate and undergraduate programs

This template should be used to bring forward all proposals for major modifications to existing graduate and undergraduate programs for governance approval under the University of Toronto’s Quality Assurance Process. It is designed to ensure that all evaluation criteria established by the Quality Council are addressed in bringing forward a proposal for a new program.

Section 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program being modified:</th>
<th>Master of Information (MI)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department / (graduate) Unit (if applicable) where the program is housed:</td>
<td>Faculty of Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty / Academic Division:</td>
<td>Faculty of Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty / Academic Division contact:</td>
<td>Adriana Rossini, Registrar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department / Unit contact:</td>
<td>Adriana Rossini, Registrar</td>
</tr>
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<td>Anticipated Effective date:</td>
<td>Sept. 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Version Date:</td>
<td>June 13, 2012</td>
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</tbody>
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Section 2 (Please remove the instructions as you complete the template in order to provide a final copy that is easier for your audience to read.)

1. Executive Summary
   - Please provide a brief summary of the change(s) being proposed.

   This is a proposal to reduce the number of core courses in the Master of Information (MI) Program to 1 half-course (0.5 FCE) for students pursuing a concentration option. INF1005/1006H Information Workshops will be retained as a core course for students pursuing a concentration option and INF1001H Knowledge and Information in Society, INF1002H Representation, Organization, Classification, and Meaning Making, and INF1003H Information Systems, Services and Design will become recommended electives. In addition, this proposal sets out the basic requirements for each concentration.

   This major modification will be effective Sept. 2013. This proposal does not affect the MI program requirements for students pursuing either a general program option (previously referred to within the Faculty of Information as an “individual path”) or a thesis option.
2. Academic Rationale

- Outline the rationale for the proposed change(s) and the fit with the unit’s and Division’s academic plans.

At its Faculty Council meeting on May 14, 2012, the Faculty of Information approved a proposal to transition the seven existing fields in the MI and PhD Programs (Library and Information Science, Archives and Records Management, Information Systems and Design, Knowledge Management and Information Management, Critical Information Studies, Cultural Heritage, Philosophy of Information) to concentrations. Concentrations are more flexible than fields and therefore more responsive to changes in particular areas of study. Concentrations, by their very nature, will reflect the evolving interests of faculty and prospective students but need not be as entirely distinct and free-standing as a field is expected to be.

The flexibility afforded by concentrations fits well with the nature of the Faculty’s programs, goals and interests. Information disciplines have undergone significant expansion and specialization over the last few years. In the case of the MI, it is important for students graduating from a professional program to identify particular areas of strength in their formation (e.g., Libraries, Information Systems, Archives, Knowledge Management, etc.) to present themselves more clearly to prospective employers. The Faculty has found through experience that, although having a single degree with a core basic to all Information disciplines is valuable, being able to present specializations more clearly has proven equally valuable.

The Faculty’s rationale for the current proposal to reduce the MI Core from four half-courses (2.0 FCEs) to one half-course (0.5 FCEs) for students pursuing a concentration option aligns with its rationale for transitioning its existing fields to concentrations. The current MI core constitutes 25% of the total number of credits required to complete the MI degree. A reduction in the number of core courses is intended to give students greater flexibility and choice in designing their program of study and to provide them with more opportunities to expand and specialize in one or more information-related areas.

It is proposed that students would have two options for completing the requirements of the MI degree. It is expected that the overwhelming majority of students entering the MI Program will choose the concentration option, which allows students to pursue a specialization in a pre-defined area of study. Five of the previous fields that have now become concentrations, i.e., Archives and Records Management, Critical Information Studies, Information Systems and Design, Knowledge Management and Information Management, and Library and Information Science, support a defined program of study. At this point we are not proposing to admit students into the other two concentrations, i.e., Cultural Heritage and Philosophy of Information. The requirements for each concentration are as follows: one core course (0.5 FCEs); five required courses identified for that concentration (2.5 FCEs); and ten elective courses (5.0 FCEs). The proposed reduction in the number of core courses will allow students in the concentration option to take three additional electives (1.5 FCEs). Students may use the additional electives to deepen their knowledge and skills within their chosen concentration, or to broaden their knowledge and skills by exploring topics in other concentrations, or to complete the requirements for a second concentration within the MI Program.

Students in the MI Program may also choose to pursue a general program option or a thesis option as an alternative to the concentration option. It is expected that the total number of students pursuing these options will constitute less than 10% of the MI student population. The general program option allows MI students to create their own program of study in collaboration with their academic advisor. The thesis option allows students to gain experience in developing and executing a research project from beginning to end. Faculty approval is required to enter the thesis option. The four half-courses that currently
constitute the core, i.e., INF1001H, INF1002H, INF1003H and INF1005/1006H, will continue to be required for students pursuing a general program option or a thesis option.

Allowing students flexibility and choice in developing their programs of study is essential given the diversity of the information disciplines that are represented in the Faculty and the wide range of possible careers available to graduates of the MI Program. At the same time, the INF1005/1006H Information Workshops will be retained as a core course for students pursuing the concentration option. Students must complete two workshops, each worth 0.25 FCE, to fulfill the course requirement for INF1005/1006H. The Information Workshops bring together the students in the MI Program for the purpose of exploring a variety of information-related topics and issues that cut across the different concentrations. The Workshops introduce students to a diverse range of perspectives and knowledge and, in so doing, offer students in the MI Program an expansive and expanding understanding of information, information scholarship, and information professionalism. In addition, the experiential and participatory nature of the workshops, their emphasis on collaborative group work, and their small size (20-25 students in each workshop) significantly enhance the student learning experience and in so doing contribute to the achievement of the MI student learning outcomes. Given that INF1001H, INF1002H, and INF1003H, also serve an important integrating function within the MI Program, these courses will continue to be offered as recommended electives for all the concentrations.

3. Description of the Proposed Major Modification(s)

- Describe what changes are being proposed. In particular, please address the following as applicable:
  - Requirements that differ substantially from those existing at the time of the previous cyclical program review
  - Significant changes to learning outcomes
  - Significant changes to the faculty engaged in delivering the program and/or to essential physical resources as may occur, for example, where there have been changes to the existing mode of delivery (e.g. different campus, on-line delivery, inter-institutional collaboration)

The current number of core courses in the Master of Information Studies Program is 4 half courses (2 FCEs). The core courses include:

- INF1001H Knowledge and Information in Society
- INF1002H Representation, Classification, Organization and Meaning Making
- INF1003H Information Systems, Services and Design
- INF1005 AND INF1006H Information Workshops

This proposal reduces the number of core courses for students pursuing a concentration option to 1 half-course (0.5 FCE), retaining INF1005/1006H as a core course and making INF1001H, INF1002H, and INF1003H recommended electives.

This proposal also sets out the basic requirements for each concentration, which are as follows: one core course (0.5 FCEs); five required courses identified for each concentration (2.5 FCEs); and ten elective courses (5.0 FCEs). A consequence of this proposal is that the number of elective courses available to students pursuing the concentration option in the MI Program will increase from seven half-courses (3.5 FCEs) to ten half-courses (5 FCEs). This proposal does not affect the MI program requirements for students pursuing either a general program option or a thesis option.

This proposed modification to the MI Program requirements would take effect September 2013.
Although the proposal to reduce the number of core courses for students pursuing a concentration option signals a shift in the direction of greater specialization within the MI degree program, the Faculty does not believe that it significantly changes student learning outcomes. Rather, it strengthens the existing learning outcomes by giving students in the MI Program greater flexibility and choice in designing their program of study; greater flexibility and choice translates into greater opportunities for students to enhance their depth and breadth of focus. As was explained in the Academic Rationale above, students in the concentration option may use the additional electives to deepen their knowledge and skills within their chosen concentration, or to broaden their knowledge and skills by exploring topics in other concentrations, or to complete the requirements for a second concentration within the MI Program.

The proposal’s effect on the Concurrent Registration Option (CRO) for students pursuing a concentration option will be: (1) to decrease the number of core courses counted toward the MI degree from 2.0 FCEs to 0.5 FCEs; (2) to add 2.5 FCEs in required courses identified for the chosen concentration within the MI component of the CRO program and; (3) to reduce the number of elective courses counted toward the MI degree from 3.0 to 2.0 FCEs. The proposal will have no effect on students pursuing a general program option within the MI component of the CRO program.

This proposal has no effect on the Diploma of Advanced Information Studies (DAIS).

The proposal will not result in any changes to faculty engaged in delivering the program or to essential physical resources.

4. Requirements
   - Please detail new requirements and changes to calendar copy. In the interest of clarity, it is recommended that proponents attach calendar copy showing current and proposed copy. If possible proponents may wish to show changes using track changes.

Please see Appendix A for full, revised calendar copy.

5. Impact of the Change on Students
   - Outline the expected impact on continuing students, if any, and how they will be accommodated.
   - Please outline any consultation with students.

Student feedback on the current core was solicited through two Town Halls held on March 7 and March 8, 2012. Student feedback on the proposed modification to the core was obtained through the participation of the MI student representative on the MI Program Subcommittee and the Programs Committee.

6. Consultation
   - Describe the impact of the major modification on other programs and any consultation undertaken with the Dean and Chair/Director of relevant academic units.

This proposal is the result of extensive discussion and consultation amongst the graduate faculty teaching in this program. Special faculty meetings were held to discuss proposed changes to the MI Core on Nov. 18, Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 2012, Mar. 22 and Mar. 26, 2012.
7. **Resources:**
   - Describe any resource implications of the change(s) including but not limited to faculty complement, space, libraries, and enrolment/admissions.

   This proposal has no resource implications.

8. **Governance Process:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Levels of Approval Required</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dean’s Office Sign Off</strong></td>
<td>Unit level approval</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Submission to Provost’s Office</strong></td>
<td>Faculty/Divisional Council</td>
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<td><strong>AP&amp;P – reported annually</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ontario Quality Council - reported annually</strong></td>
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Appendix A: Calendar copy

Current and Revised Calendar Entry
DRAFT

1. Current Program Structure

Current calendar entry

Degree Programs
Information
Master of Information
Program Requirements
• The Faculty expects students to be competent in their use of information and communication technologies as appropriate to their programs of study.
• 8.0 FCEs as follows:
  ° Course option: All students must complete four core courses (2.0 FCEs) plus 6.0 FCEs in electives and have their program of study approved by the Program Director. A number of examples of pre-established programs of study is available to students.
  ° Thesis option: The thesis option allows students to gain experience in developing and executing a research project from beginning to end. Students gain familiarity with the research process and hone their research skills. Students must complete 16 half courses (8.0 FCEs) as follows: 4 core courses (2.0 FCEs), a research methods course (0.5 FCE) appropriate to their program of study with a final grade of at least A-, 5 additional courses (2.5 FCEs), and a thesis (3.0 FCEs). The 5 additional courses may include up to 4 graduate courses (2.0 FCEs) taken outside the MI program. Faculty approval is
required to enter the thesis option. The thesis option is designed for students who have a clearly defined topic, can find a supervisor, and can meet tight deadlines in order to graduate within the usual time frame envisioned for the degree.

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**Concurrent Registration Option (CRO)**
- Students who have been accepted into both participating programs, with the permission of each Graduate Coordinator, may register concurrently in the Master of Information (MI) and Master of Museum Studies (MMSt) programs. The minimum period of registration required to complete both degrees in the concurrent registration option is three years.
- Students in the CRO must complete a total of 13.0 FCEs (26 half courses) as follows:
  - 2.0 FCEs in core courses (4 half courses) in the MI program, counted toward the MI degree.
  - 2.0 FCEs in required courses (4 half courses) in the MMSt program, counted toward the MMSt degree.
  - At least 3.0 FCEs in elective courses in the MI program, to be counted toward the MI degree.
  - At least 3.0 FCEs in elective courses in the MMSt program, to be counted toward the MMSt degree.
  - An additional 3.0 FCEs in elective courses chosen from the MI program, the MMSt program, or elsewhere (maximum 2.0 FCEs) to be counted toward both the MI and the MMSt degree.
- Registration in a CRO may affect eligibility for external and internal graduate awards and bursaries.

…

2. Proposed Program Structure Following the Major Modification

**Proposed calendar entry**

**Degree Programs**

**Information**

**Master of Information**

**Program Requirements**
• The Faculty expects students to be competent in their use of information and communication technologies as appropriate to their programs of study.

**Concentration course option:** The Master of Information Program currently offers five concentrations with structured programs of study:
- Archives and Records Management
- Critical Information Studies
- Information Systems and Design
- Knowledge Management and Information Management
- Library and Information Science

Students who choose the concentration course option must complete sixteen half courses (8.0 FCEs) as follows: one core course (0.5 FCEs), plus five required courses (2.5 FCEs) in their chosen concentration(s), plus ten additional elective courses (5.0 FCEs).

**General program option:** Students who choose the general program option must complete sixteen half-courses (8.0 FCEs) as follows: four core courses (2.0 FCEs), plus twelve additional elective courses (6.0 FCEs). The program of study is determined in consultation with the student’s academic advisor.

Students who choose to write a thesis within the general program option must complete four core courses (2.0 FCEs), plus one research methods course (0.5 FCE) appropriate to their program of study with a final grade of at least A-, plus five additional courses (2.5 FCEs), plus a thesis (3.0 FCEs). The five additional courses may include up to four graduate courses (2.0 FCEs) taken outside the MI program. Faculty approval is required to enter the thesis option.

**Concurrent Registration Option (CRO)**
- Students who have been accepted into both participating programs, with the permission of each Graduate Coordinator, may register concurrently in the Master of Information (MI) and Master of Museum Studies (MMSt) programs. The minimum period of registration required to complete both degrees in the concurrent registration option is three years.
• Students in the CRO must complete a total of 13.0 FCEs (26 half courses) as follows:
  • For students who choose the concentration option to fulfill the MI degree requirements:
    0.5 FCEs in core courses (one half course) in the MI program, counted toward the MI degree.
    2.5 FCEs in required courses (five half courses) identified for the chosen concentration, counted toward
    the MI degree.
    2.0 FCEs in required courses (four half courses) in the MMSt program, counted toward the MMSt degree.
    At least 2.0 FCEs in elective courses in the MI program, to be counted toward the MI degree.
    At least 3.0 FCEs in elective courses in the MMSt program, to be counted toward the MMSt degree.
    An additional 3.0 FCEs in elective courses chosen from the MI program, the MMSt program, or elsewhere
    (maximum 2.0 FCEs) to be counted toward both the MI and the MMSt degree.
  • For students who choose the general program option to fulfill the MI degree requirements:
    2.0 FCEs in core courses (four half courses) in the MI program, counted toward the MI degree.
    2.0 FCEs in required courses (four half courses) in the MMSt program, counted toward the MMSt degree.
    At least 3.0 FCEs in elective courses in the MI program, to be counted toward the MI degree.
    At least 3.0 FCEs in elective courses in the MMSt program, to be counted toward the MMSt degree.
    An additional 3.0 FCEs in elective courses chosen from the MI program, the MMSt program, or elsewhere
    (maximum 2.0 FCEs) to be counted toward both the MI and the MMSt degree.
Registration in a CRO may affect eligibility for external and internal graduate awards and bursaries.

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