Proposed revision in brief

For many years, Canadian high school applicants to McGill were evaluated for admission on the basis of grades obtained in the last two years of high school. In 1999, McGill revised the way it evaluated Ontario applicants, adopting the practice of Ontario universities of using only select Grade 12 courses for admission. To date, McGill’s evaluation of high school applicants from the Rest of Canada (ROC) still factors in Grade 11 performance, though in a minor way. This proposal seeks to eliminate consideration of Grade 11 performance from the normal admission decision process on ROC applicants, and rather to focus on academic performance in the top Grade 12 courses required for high school completion.

Rationale

➢ To bring McGill into line with the practices of our competitors across Canada.

➢ To increase parity between the method of evaluating ROC high school applicants and that used to evaluate Ontario high school students.

➢ To reduce the inadvertent penalizing of students pursing a more rigorous high school program.

➢ To speed decision-making on ROC applications.

Proposed revision for September 2006 for ARR-Handled Programs

ADMISSION FROM CANADIAN HIGH SCHOOLS (OTHER THAN ONTARIO)

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. A high school graduation diploma, which leads to admission to a university in the student’s home province, is the minimum qualification. Admission is based on an average of five appropriate Grade 12 courses. The five courses must include all the necessary prerequisites as designated by each faculty or school, and all courses included in the average must be academic. For British Columbia students, the five courses must be provincially examinable Grade 12 courses, or at a higher level, such as Advanced Placement. BC students with four provincially examinable courses and a fifth academic non-examinable course will be considered on an individual basis.

2. [No change.] If the applicant comes from a school where the language of instruction is English, then Grade 12 English must be included in the academic record. It the applicant comes from a school where the language of instruction is French, then Grade 12 French must be included. English Second Language and French Second Language courses are not accepted as prerequisites.

3. Marks from courses of the most advanced level of difficulty are used for admission consideration. As students do not necessarily complete these in the last year of high school, it is not always possible to
use the marks from the final school year. For Canadian provinces other than Ontario, Grade 12 course marks are used regardless of the calendar year in which the courses are taken.

4. The minimum overall average is normally 75% for non-Ontario Grade 12. In the majority of Faculties, the minimum for admission in a given year is considerably above this level.

5. Please refer to the sections which provide additional information on particular provincial grading systems and course codes.

**Guidelines for Handling of Repeated Canadian High School Courses**

An adjusted cumulative average must be generated for all repeated courses that are to be included in the calculation of the admission average.

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**BACHELOR OF ARTS AND SCIENCE (limited enrolment)**

1. Prerequisites:
   - Grade 12 Mathematics (Pre-Calculus) and
   - One of Grade 12 Biology, Chemistry or Physics
   - Grade 12 English or French
   - Two other academic Grade 12 courses

2. Length of program: 120 credits.

3. A minimum overall average of 75% in the five appropriate courses listed above. The actual minima applied in a given year may exceed these figures.

4. A minimum average of 75% in the required Grade 12 Mathematics and science courses.

5. A minimum grade of 70% is expected in Grade 12 English or French (depending on the language of instruction at the school).

6. The discretionary range is an overall average of 70 to 74%, provided the requirement on the individual Mathematics and science grades is met. The actual minima applied in a given year may exceed these figures.

7. The actual minima for the following September admission will be determined in consultations by the ARR with the Deans and the Associate Deans of the Faculties of Arts and of Science. Factors to be considered will include the faculties’ enrolment goals, related University policies, and recent experience with the applicant pool.
SCIENCE

1. Prerequisites:
   - Grade 12 Mathematics (pre-calculus)
   - Two different science subjects from the following list:
     - Grade 12 Biology
     - Grade 12 Chemistry
     - Grade 12 Physics
   - Grade 12 English or French (see #2 above, in General Requirements)
   - One other academic Grade 12 course

2. Length of program: 120 credits.

3. A minimum overall average of 75% in the five appropriate courses listed above. The actual minima applied in a given year may exceed these figures.

4. A minimum average of 75% in the required number of Grade 12 Mathematics or science courses.

5. A minimum grade of 70% is expected in each Grade 12 Mathematics and science course.

6. The discretionary range is an overall average of 70 to 74%, provided the requirement on the individual grades is met.

7. The actual minima for September admission will be determined in consultations by the ARR with the Dean and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Science. Factors to be considered will include the Faculty’s enrolment goals, related University policies and recent experience with the applicant pool.
CURRENT ADMISSION STANDARDS (as of March 22, 2005)

ADMISSION FROM CANADIAN HIGH SCHOOLS (OTHER THAN ONTARIO)

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. A high school graduation diploma, which leads to admission to a university in the student’s home province, is the minimum qualification. As the number of courses which must be completed at the Grade 12 level varies by province, McGill observes the various provincial graduation requirements. For British Columbia students, normally a minimum of 5 provincially examined Grade 12 courses is required. BC students with less than 5 courses will be considered on an individual basis.

2. If the applicant comes from a school where the language of instruction is English, then Grade 12 English must be included in the academic record. If the applicant comes from a school where the language of instruction is French, then Grade 12 French must be included. English Second Language and French Second Language courses are not accepted as prerequisites.

3. Marks from courses of the most advanced level of difficulty are used for admission consideration. As students do not necessarily complete these in the last two years of high school, it is not always possible simply to use the marks from the final two school years. For Canadian provinces other than Ontario, Grade 11 and 12 course marks are used regardless of the calendar year in which the courses are taken.

4. The minimum overall average is normally 75% for non-Ontario Grade 12. In the majority of Faculties, the minimum for admission in a given year is considerably above this level. In addition, non-Ontario Grade 12 students are expected to have attained a minimum 70% average in Grade 11 level courses.

5. Please refer to the sections which provide additional information on particular provincial grading systems and course codes.

Guidelines for Handling of Repeated Canadian High School Courses

Generally speaking, all marks are taken into consideration including those of failed or repeated courses.

BACHELOR OF ARTS AND SCIENCE (approved by UAC, March 30, 2004)

1. Prerequisites:
   Grade 12 Mathematics (Pre-Calculus) and
   One of Grade 12 Biology, Chemistry or Physics
   Grade 12 English or French

2. Length of program: 120 credits.

3. A minimum overall average of 75% in the final year or level of high school, and of 70% in the courses completed in the preceding year or at the previous level.

4. A minimum average of 75% in the required Grade 12 mathematics and science courses. A minimum grade of 70% is expected in any mathematics or science courses taken during the final two years or levels of high school.
5. A minimum grade of 70% is expected in each English or French course (depending on the language of instruction at the school) taken during the final two years or levels. On a discretionary basis, one of these English or French marks may be slightly below 70%.

6. The discretionary range is an overall average of 70 to 74%, provided the requirement on the individual Mathematics and Science grades is met. The actual minima applied in a given year may exceed these figures.

7. The actual minima for the following September admission will be determined in consultations by the ARR with the Deans and the Associate Deans of the Faculties of Arts and of Science. Factors to be considered will include the faculties’ enrolment goals, related University policies, and recent experience with the applicant pool.

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**SCIENCE**

1. Prerequisites:
   Grade 12 Mathematics (pre-calculus)
   Two different science subjects from the following list:
   - Grade 12 Biology
   - Grade 12 Chemistry
   - Grade 12 Physics
   Grade 12 English or French (see #2 above, in General Requirements)

2. Length of program: 120 credits.

3. A minimum overall average of 75% in the final year or level of high school, and of 70% in the courses completed in the preceding year or at the previous level. The actual minima applied in a given year may exceed these figures.

4. A minimum average of 75% in the required number of Grade 12 Mathematics or science courses.

5. A minimum grade of 70% is expected in any Mathematics or Science courses taken during the final two years or levels of high school.

6. The discretionary range is an overall average of 70 to 74%, provided the requirement on the individual grades is met.

7. The actual minima for September admission will be determined in consultations by the ARR with the Dean and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Science. Factors to be considered will include the Faculty’s enrolment goals, related University policies and recent experience with the applicant pool.