

1 August 2013

**To: All applicants and students admitted to Biology, Chemistry, Contemporary Science, Mathematics and Its Applications, Medical Physics and Undeclared**

**Re: New first-year curriculum for *Mathematics and Its Applications* starting September 2013**

The first-year curriculum of *Mathematics and Its Applications* has undergone a major change, which will be implemented in fall 2013. We believe that our new first-year curriculum, which has a stronger emphasis on mathematics and a reduced course load in the natural sciences, is more appropriate for Mathematics students. The new curriculum will provide a stronger foundation in mathematics and will better prepare students for the remainder of the program. Because of this change, ***Mathematics and Its Applications* no longer shares a common first year with *Biology, Chemistry, Contemporary Science, Medical Physics, or the Undeclared* option.**

The advantage to students of enrolling in a program that shares its first year curriculum with other programs is that students who decide, after first semester, that they would be more suited to a different program may switch seamlessly, without having to seek additional credits. That situation applies, in our experience, to fewer than 5% of students. We believe that the advantages of a stronger mathematics curriculum greatly outweigh the reduced ease of changing programs.

**With the new first-year curriculum for *Mathematics and Its Applications*, a seamless transition will no longer be possible.** A student who wishes to move from *Mathematics and Its Applications* to, say, *Medical Physics*, would have to apply to Admissions, be found qualified and be accepted into the program. After acceptance into *Medical Physics* the student would have to obtain additional credits in the natural sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) in order to fulfill the degree requirements of their first year of study. Likewise, a student who wishes to switch from one of the natural science streams (e.g. *Medical Physics*) to *Mathematics and Its Applications* would have to go through Admissions and would need additional math credits to complete their first year requirements. **Transferring between programs is still possible for *Biology, Chemistry, Contemporary Science, and Medical Physics. Undeclared* students can still move into any of those programs after their first semester.**

It has recently come to our attention that the materials used to promote *Mathematics and Its Applications* do not reflect the reality of the new first year curriculum and have continued to state that seamless program changes are still possible. This communication is being sent in order to alert all students and applicants to the new curriculum and its implications.

We at the Faculty of Science are committed to ensuring that your experience at Ryerson is the best it can be and will work with students to minimize any difficulties they may have as a result of the change. If you have questions regarding this issue, you may direct them to me at [dheyd@ryerson.ca](mailto:dheyd@ryerson.ca).

Kind regards,

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