



<b>SUBJECT</b>	Tuition   Bachelor of Arts, Combined Honours in Mathematics and Philosophy
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Finance Committee
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	November 20, 2024
<b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
<b>REQUEST</b>	<b>APPROVAL REQUESTED</b> IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves tuition for the Bachelor of Arts, Combined Honours in Mathematics and Philosophy of \$198.67 per credit for domestic students and \$1,572.98 per credit international students in alignment with Bachelor of Arts per credit tuition rates for 2024-2025, effective immediately, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.
<b>LEAD EXECUTIVE</b>	Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	Simon Bates, Associate Vice-President and Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts and the Department of Mathematics in the Faculty of Science are proposing the development of a new, Bachelor of Arts, Combined Honours in Mathematics and Philosophy. This program will exist alongside the existing *‘Combined Honours in Mathematics and another Subject in the Faculty of Arts’* but will have a curated curriculum weaving together existing offerings from the Mathematics and Philosophy Departments.

Following approval of the program by the UBC Vancouver Senate in September 2024, the request for approval of the Combined Honours was forwarded to the Learning & Research Committee under the Committee’s November 2024 agenda. Pending approval from the Board of Governors, the program aims to admit its first cohort of students in September 2025.

Proposed tuition is \$198.67 per credit for domestic students and \$1,572.98 per credit international students. These fees are subject to increases as approved by the Board to remain consistent with tuition rates for the Bachelor of Arts leading up to the program’s launch in September 2025.

The Office of the Vice-President Students conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal (as per Policy LR4). The e-consultation was conducted from September 04, 2024 to October 04, 2024. Submissions were not received from the AMS or GSS and no individual student submissions were received.

The program addresses the following UBC strategies from UBC’s strategic plan:

- *Strategy 12: Program Redesign:* This program combines certain elements of two existing Honours programs in order to resituate the learning outcomes and competencies into a new interdisciplinary home. This program is a strong example of the theme of Collaboration, which provides students with the latitude to navigate their interest and aptitudes.
- *Strategy 14: Interdisciplinary Education:* Allows for students from different disciplines to work and study together. Faculty from these two academic units will also work together to create a high-level learning experience for students interested in the history and ongoing relationship between mathematics and philosophy.

- *Strategy 15: Student Experience:* This program will encourage students to become self-directed learners who navigate – and increasingly shape – their pathways through courses and curriculum. Students have expressed a desire for this specific program, which will help to foster a greater sense of belonging to students who are interested in this interdisciplinary area of study.

Graduates will enjoy the benefits of the educational outcomes from both Mathematics and Philosophy: in addition to acquiring formal, mathematical skills typical of a mathematics program, students will be adept at closely reading and analyzing philosophical texts, able to communicate their own arguments in clearly written language, and appreciative of the intellectual history of each discipline and their connections. The proposed program will adequately prepare students for graduate study in leading programs in mathematics and/or philosophy. It will also serve as a foundation for all the non-academic careers for which the Departments of Philosophy and Mathematics already prepare their graduates.

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## APPENDICES

1. Tuition and Fee Assessment Details
2. Combined Honours in Mathematics and Philosophy Program Tuition, Fee, Deposit Consultation Report

**Tuition and Fee Assessment Details**

**Program Description:** Bachelor of Arts, Combined Honours in Mathematics and Philosophy

**Anticipated Start Date:** September 2025

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	\$198.67	\$1,572.98
Application Fees (Undergraduate) – Note 2	\$77.00	\$170.00
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit – Note 3	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
Other Faculty and Course Fees	N/A	N/A

Note 1 – Proposed tuition is meant to be aligned with the Bachelor of Arts program, and the approved rates for 2024/25 are presented for reference. Proposed tuition will be subject to annual increases as established by the university.

Note 2 – This is the current fee for the 2025W application cycle and is subject to increases as approved by the Board.

Note 3 – The non-refundable acceptance deposit for undergraduate programs will apply. The deposits for 2024W applicants are presented for reference. The non-refundable acceptance deposit will be applied towards the first tuition instalment.

## COMBINED HONOURS IN MATHEMATICS AND PHILOSOPHY

### PROGRAM TUITION, FEE, DEPOSIT CONSULTATION REPORT

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science conducted a student consultation regarding regarding the development of a new, Combined Honours program in Mathematics and Philosophy. This program will exist alongside the existing 'Combined Honours in Mathematics and another Subject in the Faculty of Arts' but will have a curated curriculum weaving together existing offerings from the Mathematics and Philosophy Departments. This report outlines the consultation process and summarizes student feedback.

#### **Student Representative Bodies Invited to the Consultation**

- Alma Mater Society (AMS)
- Graduate Student Society (GSS)

#### **Mode of Consultation**

The consultation consisted of an e-consultation. Student representative groups were invited to the consultation through email, and asked to distribute the invitation to their constituents as they felt appropriate. Student representative groups were also offered a face-to-face/zoom meeting to discuss the tuition proposal. A meeting was not requested by student representatives.

**Basis of Consultation:** The consultation was based on a field course fees proposal and rationale document created by the Faculty. Please see Appendix 1 for the invitation and fees rationale document.

**Timelines:** The e-consultation was conducted over the period of Wednesday September 4, 2024 to Friday October 4, 2024.

**Summary of Student Feedback:** Submissions were not received by AMS or GSS and no individual student submissions were received.

## APPENDIX 1: INVITATION TO CONSULTATION AND TUITION RATIONALE DOCUMENT

**\*\*\*This message is sent on behalf of Samantha Reid, Associate Vice-President, Students, UBC Vancouver\*\*\***

Hello everyone,

There is a proposal by the Department of Philosophy (PHIL) in the Faculty of Arts and the Department of Mathematics (MATH) in the Faculty of Science regarding the development of a new, Combined Honours program in Mathematics and Philosophy. This program will exist alongside the existing 'Combined Honours in Mathematics and another Subject in the Faculty of Arts' but will have a curated curriculum weaving together existing offerings from the Mathematics and Philosophy Departments.

In order to inform the program leads and the Board of Governors with regards to the **tuition proposal** for this program, the University is undertaking a consultative process to get your comments as student representatives, and provide an opportunity for students to provide individual comments on the proposal if they wish. **Please note: the scope of this consultation process is limited to the tuition fees proposal.**

The consultation will consist of:

### 1. e-consultation

Please find attached a document which outlines the details of the tuition proposal, including:

- an overview of the program,
- the student consultation that has happened to date,
- the tuition and fees rationale for the program, and
- the proposed tuition and fees.

Please share the document and this email as you see appropriate. **Comments and student organization submissions on the tuition proposal can be provided to Irena Deretic – Administrative Coordinator, Office of the Vice President Students ([vpsassist@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:vpsassist@mail.ubc.ca)).**

### 2. Face to Face/Zoom meeting

If requested by student representatives, we can arrange a face-to-face/Zoom meeting with the program leads regarding this tuition proposal. Please advise as soon as possible if you would like us to arrange a meeting.

**THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WILL END ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> AT MIDNIGHT.**

### Confidentiality

- Comments will be collected by the Vice-President Students Office, and only analysts within that office will know the identity of individual students submitting comments. At no time will anyone outside of the Vice President Students Office know the identity of individual students who submit comments to this consultation. Your comments will only be used for the purposes of the tuition consultation.
- Comments from individual students will be stripped of any identifying information to ensure confidentiality, but otherwise will be provided to the responsible program leads and Board of Governors verbatim.

- Comments received from student organizations will be reported as coming from those organizations, and provided to the responsible faculty and Board of Governors as received. There will also be a summary report of the consultation developed for the Faculty and Board of Governors.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the process.

Thank you,

Samantha

**Dr. Samantha Reid** Ph.D. ((She, Her, Hers))

**Associate Vice President, Students**

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## COMBINED HONOURS IN MATHEMATICS AND PHILOSOPHY TUITION CONSULTATION

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### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Philosophy (PHIL) in the Faculty of Arts and the Department of Mathematics (MATH) in the Faculty of Science are proposing the development of a new, Combined Honours program in Mathematics and Philosophy. This program will exist alongside the existing '*Combined Honours in Mathematics and another Subject in the Faculty of Arts*' but will have a curated curriculum weaving together existing offerings from the Mathematics and Philosophy Departments. In this aspect, it will be similar to the curated combined honours programs in Mathematics that exist in the Faculty of Science, such as the programs in Mathematics and Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics, and Mathematics and Chemistry.

Mathematics and philosophy have been entwined for millennia (from, for instance, Pythagoreans, Euclid, Plato, and Aristotle in ancient Greece through Avicenna and others in the Islamic Golden Age leading to Descartes, Newton, Leibniz, Dedekind, and into the 20th century through Hilbert, Frege, Russell, Gödel, Tarski, Turing, Church, and on and on). The study of proof in mathematics and deductive reasoning in philosophy—perhaps the fundamental methodologies of the disciplines today—gave rise to logic, a discipline that now stands on its own as well as being inseparable from either of its progenitors, and which, in turn, led to computer science. Contemporary philosophy is filled with philosophers of mathematics, formal philosophers who adroitly employ mathematical tools to philosophical ends, logicians and philosophers of logic, as well as historians and philosophers of science for whom a proper mathematical training is essential (the department at UBC boasts faculty in all of these areas). The foundations of mathematics is an area studied by both mathematicians and philosophers, and one finds world-leading researchers of set theory, category theory, proof theory, and computability theory in Mathematics as well as Philosophy departments, not to mention those unique departments, institutes, and centres that eschew the distinction and focus on both. The goal of the proposed Combined Honours in Mathematics and Philosophy is to give students who are interested in this history and ongoing relationship an intellectual home at UBC.

Graduates of the combined honours program will enjoy the benefits of the educational outcomes from both Mathematics and Philosophy: in addition to acquiring formal, mathematical skills typical of a mathematics program, students will be adept at closely reading and analyzing philosophical texts, able to communicate their own arguments in clearly written language, and appreciative of the intellectual history of each discipline and their connections.

The proposed program will adequately prepare students for graduate study in leading programs in mathematics and/or philosophy. It will also serve as a foundation for all the non-academic careers for which the Departments of Philosophy and Mathematics already prepare their graduates.

## STUDENT CONSULTATION DURING THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

During the autumn of 2023, a student survey was deployed to gather feedback on the proposed program.

The Department of Philosophy invited students that were currently enrolled in a number of philosophy classes to complete a survey about a potential combined honours program in philosophy and math.

There were two questions on the survey:

1. Do you think UBC should offer a combined honours program in Mathematics and Philosophy?
2. Would you be/have been interested in a combined honours degree in Mathematics and Philosophy if it became available/had been available at UBC?

121 students responded to the survey. Of these, 111 chose “Yes” as the answer to the first question. For the second question, 47 students selected the option “Very interested – I would or would have probably enrolled.” 45 answered “Somewhat interested” and only 29 indicated “Not interested”.

The following comments were submitted by students:

- *It is an excellent idea! Philosophy is a common minor for mathematics and a tailored double [degree] is an excellent idea.*
- *[S]ince taking philosophy and math courses, philosophy helps a lot with my math courses surrounding proofs and it is similar in format.*
- *I was surprised that it didn't already exist.*
- *[E]xtremely excited that UBC is considering this. I am a PHIL honours student, math minor, and have been considering applying to Math to do a double major, PHIL HONS/math. If a joint program existed I would apply.*
- *It's the perfect program for a successful mindset. Critical, logical and analytical.*
- *Sounds like a super interesting program and would be an incredible pre-law degree.*
- *One thing I would like to say is that while I individually would not have taken such a program, I personally know people who have told me that such a joint honours program is exactly what they are interested in. As I have come to appreciate more in PHIL 222, the intersection of math and philosophy is extremely deep and fundamental to both subjects, so I think that such a program that allows students to delve into both topics would be an excellent addition to the university.*



<b>TUITION AND FEES RATIONALE</b>
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In the 2024/25 academic year, tuition fees per credit for the program (consistent with other Faculty of Arts programs) are:

- Domestic students: \$198.67
- International students: \$1,572.98

These fees are subject to increases as approved by the Board to remain consistent with tuition rates for the Bachelor of Arts leading up to the program’s launch in September 2025.

**Table 1: Sample Tuition Rates of Comparable Programs in Canada**

University	Program	Approx. \$ Per Credit: Domestic/International (CAD, 2023-2024)
University of Toronto	Honours in Mathematics and Philosophy (Faculty of Arts and Science)	Ontario residents: \$6,100 per year. Domestic outside Ontario: \$6,910. International students: \$61,720.
McMaster University	Honours Philosophy and Mathematics (Faculty of Humanities)	In province : \$201.42 per unit. Out of province : \$240.15. International : \$1,584.51.

<b>PROPOSED TUITION AND FEES</b>
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Program Description: Bachelor of Arts, Combined Honours in Mathematics and Philosophy

Anticipated Start Date: September 2025

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