



Bachelor of Administrative and Commercial Studies Program
Faculty of Social Science

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Bachelor of Administrative and Commercial Studies (BACS) program, I am very pleased to announce to our students the proposed renaming of BACS to **Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies (BMOS)** effective May 1, 2006, pending Senate approval.

This name change has been a couple of years in coming. Those of us who recruit, teach, and advise BACS students are well aware of the confusion the existing name often creates, particularly in terms of conveying to potential employers the valuable combination of business and social science skills our graduates possess. We are convinced that the updated name BMOS will eliminate much of this uncertainty and enhance our graduates' marketability, while at the same time reflecting more accurately our program's unique academic focus. The term "management studies," for example, is clearly understood to have a "business" connotation, whereas words such as "commercial" and "administrative" have frequently proven subject to misinterpretation. Similarly, incorporating into our degree name the term "organizational studies" accentuates the fact that our academic emphasis goes well beyond that of conventional business programs by incorporating the study of individual and group behaviors within an organized setting, an activity at the heart of social scientific enquiry. BMOS will thus remain, as BACS before it, the only degree of its kind in Canada.

Under these proposed changes your ACS courses will remain the same; only their titles will be renamed. For example, ACS 372 will become MOS 372, and ACS 310a/b becomes MOS 310a/b. The existing degree requirements for the BACS Specializations likewise remain the same. Only the degree and course names change.

Along with the new degree name I am delighted to be able to mention that BACS anticipates receiving over the next few months a very substantial donation from a former ACS student who graduated from our program a number of years ago. Due to considerations of confidentiality I cannot presently release any further details other than to note that the donor's name will hopefully also be attached to the BMOS program. Monies from this donation will be used to benefit our program in a number of new ways. We anticipate, for example, being able to create a much expanded program of BMOS student scholarships.

As to the proposed degree and program name change, it is very important that all students currently registered in the BACS program understand that they will have the opportunity to choose whether to graduate with the new BMOS degree, or to receive a BACS degree.

Students currently in Years 1, 2, and 3 of the BACS program will have the opportunity to switch into the new BMOS degree at any time up to and including their final term of

study prior to graduation. More information about how students go about making this change will follow at a later date, including the upcoming “Intent-to-Register” period in February.

Students currently in Year 4 of the BACS program can also be awarded the BMOS degree instead of a BACS degree, provided they defer graduation until the October 2006 convocation at the earliest. University regulations require that students be registered in the degree program from which they intend to graduate during the academic term immediately prior to graduation. Since the BMOS degree will not be officially introduced until May 1, 2006 (the Summer 2006 academic term), it will not be possible to award the BMOS degree at the June 2006 convocation. However, any Year 4 BACS students who complete their degree requirements during the current Winter 2006 academic term and who wish to receive the BMOS degree, can simply notify the BACS office and we will ensure that they are registered as BMOS students during the Summer 2006 academic term (even though no courses would actually be taken during that term). Those students in turn apply to graduate at the October 2006 convocation (or later). Any current Year 4 students who defer graduation until October 2006 and who require documentation in the interim verifying for potential employers or others that they have completed their degree requirements, will be provided with a letter to that effect from the BMOS program office upon request. Eligible students wishing to graduate with the BACS degree at the June 2006 convocation can of course do so as usual.

I hope you agree that the proposed renaming of BACS to BMOS is a very exciting and important initiative in the life of our program, and I am delighted that all of you have the opportunity to benefit from this change.

Sincerely,

Keith Fleming, Ph.D.
Director, BACS Program