![OntarioTech University logo]

ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Graduate Studies Committee

AGENDA
Date: June 24, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Videoconference Link (registration required)

Meeting Materials

No.		Topic	Lead	Suggested Start Time
		Public Session		
1.		**Call to Order**		
2.		*Agenda* (M)	Chair	9:00 a.m.
3.		*Chair's Remarks**		
4.		**Major Program Modification (Recommendation)**		
	4.1	*Master of Science in Nursing** (M)		9:10 a.m.
5.		**Consent Agenda* (M)**		
	5.1	*Public Minutes of the May 27, 2025 Meeting** (M)		
	5.2	Memo's: i) *Faculty of Business and IT Mode of Delivery Flexibility for Graduate Courses** (I) ii) *Frazer Faculty of Education Mode of Delivery Flexibility for Graduate Courses** (I) iii) *Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science Mode of Delivery Flexibility for Graduate Courses** (I)	Chair	9:20 a.m.

		iv) *Faculty of Health Sciences Mode of Delivery Flexibility for Graduate Courses** (I)		
	5.3	Minor Curricular Adjustments: Course Changes: HLSC 7092G, HLSC 5118G, HLSC 5123G		
	5.4	*2025-2026 Graduate Academic Schedule – Amendment** (I)		
	5.6	Associate Graduate Faculty • Computer Science, Mattias O'Nils, Faculty of Science • Computer Science, Jarek Szlichta, Faculty of Science • Computer Science, Felix Gaschi, Faculty of Science • Computer Science, Natalija Vlajic, Faculty of Business and Information Technology • Computer Science, Nick Wattie, Faculty of Health Sciences • Criminology, Alyson King, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities • Education, Kaitlyn Watson, Frazer Faculty of Education • Education, Sarah Stokes, Frazer Faculty of Education • Education, Catherine Drea, Frazer Faculty of Education • Education, Robert Power, Frazer Faculty of Education • Education, Sharon Lauricella, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities • Electrical and Computer Engineering & Software Engineering, Shahryar Rahnamayan, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science • Health Sciences, Nooshin Rotondi, Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Faculty • Electrical and Computer Engineering & Software Engineering, Hani Sami, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science • Electrical and Computer Engineering & Software Engineering, Nasim Beigi-Mohammadi, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science		

		Emeritus Graduate Faculty • Computer Science, Ramiro Liscano, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science		
	5.7	*Library Report** (I)		
6.		**Volunteer for September Land Acknowledgement**	Chair	9:25 a.m.
7.		**Termination (M)**	Chair	9:30 a.m.

Nicola Crow, University Secretary

Graduate Studies Committee

Report of the Chair – Carla Cesaroni, Ph.D., Associate Dean, SGPS
School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies – June 2025

Land Acknowledgement

Ontario Tech University acknowledges the lands and people of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation. We are thankful to be welcomed on these lands in friendship. The lands we are situated on are covered under the Williams Treaties and the traditional territory of the Mississaugas, a branch of the greater Anishinaabeg Nation, including Algonquin, Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatomi. These lands remain home to a number of Indigenous nations and people.

We acknowledge this land out of respect for the Indigenous nations who have cared for Turtle Island, also called North America, from before the arrival of settler peoples until this day. Most importantly, we remember the history of these lands has been tainted by poor treatment and a lack of friendship with the First Nations who call them home.

This history is something we are all affected by as we are all treaty people in Canada. We all have a shared history to reflect on, and each of us is affected by this history in different ways. Our past defines our present, but if we move forward as friends and allies, then it does not have to define our future.

Chair's Remarks

SGPS Updates and Events
SGPS is reviewing and updating the following policies over the spring/summer; thank-you to all GDPs who provided feedback.

SGPS will be transitioning to only using the **gradstudies@ontariotechu.ca** and **gradsupport@ontariotechu.ca** inboxes.

The benefits of having one inbox are:

1. **Increased Response Time**: With all Officers working from one inbox, we can collaborate seamlessly, ensuring inquiries are addressed promptly.
2. **Consistent Coverage**: If a team member is on vacation or unavailable, others can step in, maintaining uninterrupted service.
3. **Improved Visibility**: Staff can view all cases and responses, fostering better coordination and reducing duplicated efforts.
4. **Simplified Communication**: Students, faculty, and staff will have one email address (gradstudies) for all SGPS inquiries, making it easier to connect with us.

The transition will occur over the summer with full implementation by the end of August. Old inboxes will still be active but you will notice an increase in emails coming from **gradstudies@ontariotechu.ca**

Base Camp, Grad Pro Skills and Graduate Engagement

Pre-Orientation
- Life as a Graduate Student: June 13th
- Meet the International Team: June 16th

Grad Pro Skills
- End Note Essentials: June 4th
- Mindfulness in Career Development: June 13th
- Negotiating the Job Offer: June 18th

Graduate Engagement
- Canadian Nuclear Laboratory Immersive Experience Monday, June 23rd to Friday, June 27th

Graduate Student and Postdoc Celebrations!

Note that at the end of each term – the associate dean sends out a congratulatory email to all that have successfully email and ask that they send us material to celebrate their success as part of Base Camp Inspire – and our Celebrating Our Success page!

The following students submitted their final thesis packages and successfully completed their program during the past month:

Student: Madhav Goyani
Program: MSc in Computer Science
Thesis Title: Quasimetric Decision Transformer: Enhancing Goal-Conditioned Reinforcement Learning with Structured Distance Guidance
Supervisor: Mehran Ebrahimi & Kourosh Davoudi
Faculty: Science
Completed: May 28, 2025

Student: William Auray
Program: Master of Health Sciences
Thesis Title: The Effect of Extended Reach on Manual Arm Strength
Supervisor: Nicholas La Delfa
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: May 30, 2025

Student: Adriana Avraam
Program: MA in Criminology
Thesis Title: Progress in Question: A Qualitative Thematic Analysis of Disciplinary Power, and Black Senior Leadership in Canadian Policing

Supervisor: Kanika Samuels-Wortley
Faculty: Social Science and Humanities
Completed: June 10, 2025

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation ☒
Decision ☐
Discussion/Direction ☐
Information ☐

DATE: 24 June 2025

FROM: Faculty of Health Sciences

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Master of Science in Nursing (MScN)

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with Section III, part c) of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Terms of Reference, GSC has the responsibility to "examine proposals for new graduate degree and diploma programs, major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to Academic Council".

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:
That GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Master of Science in Nursing (MScN) program to reflect the mutual decision to dissolve the joint partnership with Trent University.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty is proposing to facilitate a standalone MScN program offered solely through Ontario Tech University.

The MScN program was originally developed and approved as a joint program between Ontario Tech University and Trent University. The collaboration was relatively limited in scope, with students typically taking only three-to-four courses outside their home university. Despite the benefits over the past five years, differences in institutional operations created administrative challenges. As a result, both institutions have decided to end the partnership through mutual agreement. As a result of the dissolution of the partnership with Trent University, the joint program option will be closed and a stand-alone program option, offered solely through Ontario Tech, will be created.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
The proposed stand-alone program is well supported by existing resources in the Faculty of Health Sciences. It will align with the resources and funding structures currently in place for other graduate programs within the Faculty. While full-time faculty and sessional members will be required to teach the four courses historically taught by Trent University, by no longer coordinating with a partner university, with different systems, policies, procedures, and timelines, the administrative load will be

offset. As a result, it is anticipated that the change will be neutral in terms of overall workload. The time and effort previously spent on cross-institutional coordination will be redirected to supporting students which will support greater consistency and efficiency in managing the program.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:
Current MScN students will continue on the existing program map delivered jointly by Trent University (final intake Spring 2025). Students who begin in the Spring 2026 academic term will follow the stand-alone program. The current students in the program will be informed of the program changes via email, the updated handbook, and an online meeting facilitated by the Graduate Program Director and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. Incoming students will be made aware of these changes via the website and Academic Calendar.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ Graduate Program Committee: 12 May 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 4 June 2025
- Graduate Studies Committee (for recommendation): 24 June 2025
- Academic Council (for approval): 23 September 2025

Additional consultation:
- Consultation regarding the dissolution has occurred between the Faculty, Dean, and SGPS.
- Consultation with the Quality Council was facilitated through CIQE to ensure IQAP and provincial framework obligations are met.

NEXT STEPS:
Pending the recommendation of GSC, this change will be presented for to Academic Council for approval. Once approved, it will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- [Major Program Modification Proposal](#)

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (GSC)

Minutes of the Public Session of the May 27, 2025, Meeting
via Videoconference
9:01 a.m. - 9:17 a.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

Graduate Studies Committee Agendas, Materials and Minutes 2024-2025

Present: P. Mirza Babaei (Chair), N. Crow, J. Abbas Dick, J. Arcand, A. Azim, R, Bailey, C. Cesaroni, K. Clarke, C. Davidson, L. Harkins, S. Jackson, A. Kiani, O. Marques, H. MacPherson, D. Papke, F. Quereshi, A. Slane, J. Stokes, A. Tokuhiro, R. Van Oostveen, L. VanVeen, N. Wattie, K. Wilson, A. Wingate

Regrets: D. Bonetta, A. Cooper, F. Gaspari, L. Jacobs, L. Livingston, S. Marsh, C. McGregor

Staff: K. Ayotte (Secretary), K. McCartney, J. Pereira, B. Tranter, S. Windsor

1. **Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**
   The Chair called the Public session of the GSC meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and read aloud the Land Acknowledgement.

2. **Agenda (M)**
   A. Wingate requested to remove Item 4.3-*2025-2026 Graduate Academic Schedule - Amendment*, from the Consent Agenda advising members that it contains additional edits and will be brought back to the Committee next month.

   Upon a motion duly made by A. Slane and seconded by J. Arcand, the Agenda was approved as amended, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents.

3. **Chair's Remarks**
   The Chair welcomed attendees and highlighted upcoming initiatives that the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS) will focus on over the summer, including reviewing thesis and graduate faculty policies, updating the terms of reference for awards and scholarships, and enhancing support for graduate and postdoctoral engagement. H. Macpherson added that the leadership team had recently met to identify these priorities with plans to report back to the GSC in the fall, noting there will be opportunities to consult with members for feedback throughout the process.

The Chair also shared that Salma Bafagih, a student from the Faculty of Health Sciences supervised by J. Arcand, placed second in the recent 3MT Thesis competition and will advance to the national level in Ottawa this fall. He emphasized the importance of this achievement and thanked the faculty and staff involved for their support and organization.

He went on to announce the ratification of a new Postdoctoral Fellow Collective Agreement, which includes key updates such as more flexible contract durations starting at six months, the removal of time limits since PhD completion, more inclusive terminology by using "doctorate," and a salary increase to remain competitive.

A member raised a question regarding the minimum salary for postdoctoral fellows under the updated collective agreement, noting concerns about affordability and competitiveness. The Chair explained that the minimum salary has been increased through consultation with current post-docs and comparisons with other universities. He clarified that most post-docs are already paid above the new minimum and that the change aligns with similar updates in other negotiated agreements.

Concerns were raised regarding the retroactive lump sum pay for post-docs, particularly for grants that have already ended and cannot cover the additional costs. In response, J. Stokes confirmed the University will cover the lump sum pay and acknowledged that there was room for improvement in the communication on this. He added that steps are being taken to improve communication processes and budgeting guidance for future post-doc salary increases. The Chair added that the lump sum payment was discussed during the negotiations, and it was agreed that the University would cover it; the communication issues during the implementation have since been addressed, as noted by J. Stokes.

The Chair continued his remarks by noting that three students were awarded Vector Scholarships, and two others received Vanier Scholarships. He also announced an increase in the number of thesis awards, with six recipients this year representing all faculties. He thanked faculty and staff for their support and noted that these awards will strengthen students' CVs and contribute to their career advancement.

4. **Consent Agenda* (M)**
   The Chair confirmed that the contents of the Consent Agenda were approved and received under Agenda Item #2.

   4.1   Public Minutes of the March 25, 2025, Meeting* (M)
   4.2   Minor Curricular Changes
         Course Change:
         ENGR 5980G/5965G - Digital Devices and Techniques for Smart Grid Automation and Protection
   4.3   Faculty Reports* (I)
         a) Faculty Reports
            i) FSSH
         b) Library Report
   4.4   Associate Graduate Faculty
         • Education, Katie Higginbottom, Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education

- Education, Shamiga Arumuhathas, Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education
- Education, Joe Stokes, Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education
- Computer Science, Mariana Shimabukuro, Faculty of Science
- Applied Bioscience, Shari Forbes, Faculty of Science
- Applied Bioscience, Erin Ussery, Faculty of Science
- Education, Katie Higginbottom, Frazer Faculty of Education
- Education, Shamiga Arumuhathas, Frazer Faculty of Education
- Education, Joe Stokes, Frazer Faculty of Education
- Computer Science, Mariana Shimabukuro, Faculty of Science
- Computer Science, Bobby Stojanoski, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Applied Bioscience, Shari Forbes, Faculty of Science
- Applied Bioscience, Erin Ussery, Faculty of Science
- Accounting, Jonathan Muterera, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Accounting, Mehdi Hossein-Nejad, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Accounting, Gabby Resch, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Health Sciences, Melissa Atkinson-Graham, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Michael Sonne, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, John Srbely, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Jan Hartvigsen, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Alyson Mahar, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Forensic Psychology, Jeffrey Abracen, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Forensic Psychology, Paul Yielder, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Criminology, Jordan Harel, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

Graduate Faculty
- Health Sciences, Patrick Hung, Faculty of Business and Information Technology

5. **Volunteer for June Land Acknowledgement**
N. Wattie volunteered to provide the June Land Acknowledgement.

6. **Termination (M)**
There being no other business, and upon a motion to terminate by R. Van Oostveen, the GSC meeting terminated at 9:17 a.m.

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: 24 June 2025

FROM: Faculty of Business and Information Technology

SUBJECT: Mode of Delivery Flexibility for Graduate Courses

MANDATE:
In accordance with Section 5.1 of the IQAP Curriculum Change Procedures, Minor Curricular Changes fall under the purview of the Faculty Council(s)…and include changes in the design, mode of delivery, course learning outcomes, and teaching and assessment methods of an individual course. Minor Curricular Changes are approved at the Faculty Council and must be reported to the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council (USC or GSC).

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
Ontario Tech has a rich and successful history of offering courses online and in hybrid format. To build on this success, the University is taking the initiative to provide the opportunity for Faculties to update all degree and diploma courses to include hybrid (in-class and online delivery) and fully online (synchronous and asynchronous) mode of delivery options. Updating to a fully flexible delivery mode for all courses is intended to remove administrative barriers for Faculties to allow the option of offering courses in any mode of delivery while maintaining the learning outcomes.

Including flexible options does not commit any course to being scheduled in an online or hybrid format. The process for determining course formats remains unchanged and will continue to be guided by the parameters of relevant Faculty processes, collective agreements, and relevant accreditation requirements. Faculty processes will continue to inform the scheduling of courses each year to ensure that there is a strong rationale for the proposed mode for the term, including presenting a course online, while considering the current state of the discipline, the needs of the program, accreditation standards and any requirement to adapt to situations compromising the students' learning environment.

The percentage of online courses for each academic year will be monitored by the Dean. Should programs reach the threshold to be considered hybrid (at least 50% of courses consistently offered in

hybrid or online format) or online (all courses offered online), then the Dean will immediately initiate a Major Program Modification, which will proceed through normal Academic Council approval and governance processes.

The Faculty of Business and Information Technology approved the mode of delivery for all Faculty degree and diploma courses to include hybrid (in-class and online delivery), and fully online (synchronous and asynchronous) courses.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources are required.

TRANSITION PLAN AND COMMUNICATION PLAN
No transition or communication plan is required. Each course will indicate flexible delivery within the course database and the appropriate program committees and Deans/Associate Deans will oversee the scheduling of courses each year. Courses may be scheduled with new online/hybrid options as of the Fall 2025 academic term.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- Faculty Council (approval): 6 May 2025
- Graduate Studies Committee (for information): 24 June 2025

NEXT STEPS:
The entries in the Academic Calendar course database will be updated for 2025-2026.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
N/A

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 June 2025**

FROM: **Frazer Faculty of Education**

SUBJECT: **Mode of Delivery Flexibility for Graduate Courses**

MANDATE:
In accordance with Section 5.1 of the IQAP Curriculum Change Procedures, Minor Curricular Changes fall under the purview of the Faculty Council(s)…and include changes in the design, mode of delivery, course learning outcomes, and teaching and assessment methods of an individual course. Minor Curricular Changes are approved at the Faculty Council and must be reported to the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council (USC or GSC).

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
Ontario Tech has a rich and successful history of offering courses online and in hybrid format. To build on this success, the University is taking the initiative to provide the opportunity for Faculties to update all degree and diploma courses to include hybrid (in-class and online delivery) and fully online (synchronous and asynchronous) mode of delivery options. Updating to a fully flexible delivery mode for all courses is intended to remove administrative barriers for Faculties to allow the option of offering courses in any mode of delivery while maintaining the learning outcomes.

Including flexible options does not commit any course to being scheduled in an online or hybrid format. The process for determining course formats remains unchanged and will continue to be guided by the parameters of relevant Faculty processes, collective agreements, and relevant accreditation requirements. Faculty processes will continue to inform the scheduling of courses each year to ensure that there is a strong rationale for the proposed mode for the term, including presenting a course online, while considering the current state of the discipline, the needs of the program, accreditation standards and any requirement to adapt to situations compromising the students' learning environment.

The percentage of online courses for each academic year will be monitored by the Dean. Should programs reach the threshold to be considered hybrid (at least 50% of courses consistently offered in

hybrid or online format) or online (all courses offered online), then the Dean will immediately initiate a Major Program Modification, which will proceed through normal Academic Council approval and governance processes.

The Faculty of Education approved the mode of delivery for all Faculty degree and diploma courses to include hybrid (in-class and online delivery), and fully online (synchronous and asynchronous) courses.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources are required.

TRANSITION PLAN AND COMMUNICATION PLAN
No transition or communication plan is required. Each course will indicate flexible delivery within the course database and the appropriate program committees and Deans/Associate Deans will oversee the scheduling of courses each year. Courses may be scheduled with new online/hybrid options as of the Fall 2025 academic term.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- Faculty Council (approval): 28 April 2025
- Graduate Studies Committee (for information): 24 June 2025

NEXT STEPS:
The entries in the Academic Calendar course database will be updated for 2025-2026.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
N/A

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: 24 June 2025

FROM: Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

SUBJECT: Mode of Delivery Flexibility for Graduate Courses

MANDATE:
In accordance with Section 5.1 of the IQAP Curriculum Change Procedures, Minor Curricular Changes fall under the purview of the Faculty Council(s)…and include changes in the design, mode of delivery, course learning outcomes, and teaching and assessment methods of an individual course. Minor Curricular Changes are approved at the Faculty Council and must be reported to the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council (USC or GSC).

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
Ontario Tech has a rich and successful history of offering courses online and in hybrid format. To build on this success, the University is taking the initiative to provide the opportunity for Faculties to update all degree and diploma courses to include hybrid (in-class and online delivery) and fully online (synchronous and asynchronous) mode of delivery options. Updating to a fully flexible delivery mode for all courses is intended to remove administrative barriers for Faculties to allow the option of offering courses in any mode of delivery while maintaining the learning outcomes.

Including flexible options does not commit any course to being scheduled in an online or hybrid format. The process for determining course formats remains unchanged and will continue to be guided by the parameters of relevant Faculty processes, collective agreements, and relevant accreditation requirements. Faculty processes will continue to inform the scheduling of courses each year to ensure that there is a strong rationale for the proposed mode for the term, including presenting a course online, while considering the current state of the discipline, the needs of the program, accreditation standards and any requirement to adapt to situations compromising the students' learning environment.

The percentage of online courses for each academic year will be monitored by the Dean. Should programs reach the threshold to be considered hybrid (at least 50% of courses consistently offered in

hybrid or online format) or online (all courses offered online), then the Dean will immediately initiate a Major Program Modification, which will proceed through normal Academic Council approval and governance processes.

The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science approved the mode of delivery for all Graduate Programs' degree and diploma courses to include hybrid (in-class and online delivery), and fully online (synchronous and asynchronous) courses.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources are required.

TRANSITION PLAN AND COMMUNICATION PLAN
No transition or communication plan is required. Each course will indicate flexible delivery within the course database and the appropriate program committees and Deans/Associate Deans will oversee the scheduling of courses each year. Courses may be scheduled with new online/hybrid options as of the Fall 2025 academic term.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- Faculty Council (approval): 24 April 2025
- Graduate Studies Committee (for information): 24 June 2025

NEXT STEPS:
The entries in the Academic Calendar course database will be updated for 2025-2026.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
N/A

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: 24 June 2025

FROM: Faculty of Health Sciences

SUBJECT: Mode of Delivery Flexibility for Graduate Courses

MANDATE:
In accordance with Section 5.1 of the IQAP Curriculum Change Procedures, Minor Curricular Changes fall under the purview of the Faculty Council(s)…and include changes in the design, mode of delivery, course learning outcomes, and teaching and assessment methods of an individual course. Minor Curricular Changes are approved at the Faculty Council and must be reported to the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council (USC or GSC).

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
Ontario Tech has a rich and successful history of offering courses online and in hybrid format. To build on this success, the University is taking the initiative to provide the opportunity for Faculties to update all degree and diploma courses to include hybrid (in-class and online delivery) and fully online (synchronous and asynchronous) mode of delivery options. Updating to a fully flexible delivery mode for all courses is intended to remove administrative barriers for Faculties to allow the option of offering courses in any mode of delivery while maintaining the learning outcomes.

Including flexible options does not commit any course to being scheduled in an online or hybrid format. The process for determining course formats remains unchanged and will continue to be guided by the parameters of relevant Faculty processes, collective agreements, and relevant accreditation requirements. Faculty processes will continue to inform the scheduling of courses each year to ensure that there is a strong rationale for the proposed mode for the term, including presenting a course online, while considering the current state of the discipline, the needs of the program, accreditation standards and any requirement to adapt to situations compromising the students' learning environment.

The percentage of online courses for each academic year will be monitored by the Dean. Should programs reach the threshold to be considered hybrid (at least 50% of courses consistently offered in

hybrid or online format) or online (all courses offered online), then the Dean will immediately initiate a Major Program Modification, which will proceed through normal Academic Council approval and governance processes.

The Faculty of Health Sciences approved the mode of delivery for all Faculty degree and diploma courses to include hybrid (in-class and online delivery), and fully online (synchronous and asynchronous) courses.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources are required.

TRANSITION PLAN AND COMMUNICATION PLAN
No transition or communication plan is required. Each course will indicate flexible delivery within the course database and the appropriate program committees and Deans/Associate Deans will oversee the scheduling of courses each year. Courses may be scheduled with new online/hybrid options as of the Fall 2025 academic term.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- Faculty Council (approval): 2 April 2025
- Graduate Studies Committee (for information): 24 June 2025

NEXT STEPS:
The entries in the Academic Calendar course database will be updated for 2025-2026.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
N/A

Academic schedule

- Fall semester
- Winter semester
- Spring/Summer semester

Fall semester

August 10, 2025   Last day to submit an online application for graduation for students completing degree requirements at the end of the summer semester.

September 1, 2025   Labour Day, no lectures.

September 2, 2025   Lectures begin, fall semester.

Last day to submit for reinstatement, fall semester.

Last day to submit return from leave of absence form, fall semester.

Deadline for payment of fees or submission of the Graduate Student Promissory Note, fall semester.

Last day to submit a program change request, fall semester.

Last day to change full-time/part-time status, fall semester.

Last day to submit a leave of absence form, fall semester.

September 15, 2025   End of regular registration period; last day to add courses, fall semester.

Last day to drop courses in fee-per-credit graduate programs and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees, fall semester.

Last day to withdraw from a flat-fee graduate program and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees, fall semester.

September 29, 2025	Last day to withdraw from fall semester courses without academic consequences (i.e., without receiving a grade). Courses dropped after this date will be recorded on the academic transcript with a grade of W to indicate withdrawal.
	Last day to drop courses in fee-per-credit graduate programs and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees, fall semester.
	Last day to withdraw from a flat-fee graduate program and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees, fall semester.
October 13, 2025	Thanksgiving Day, no lectures.
October 14 to 19, 2025	Fall study week, no lectures.
October 16 to 17, 2025	Fall Convocation.
November 3, 2025	Last day to withdraw from fall semester courses. Active fall semester courses will be graded by instructors.
December 1, 2025	Lectures end, fall semester.
December 2, 2025	Study break, no lectures.

December 3 to 13, 2025	Fall semester final examination period. Students are advised not to make commitments during this period (i.e., vacation, travel plans).
December 15, 2025	Last day to submit final thesis package to program office to ensure graduation by end of fall semester.
	Last day for faculty to submit Certificate of Approval for project/paper to the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to ensure graduation by end of fall semester.
December 18, 2025	Fall Semester Grades released
December 24, 2025 to January 2, 2026	University closed.
December 31, 2025	Last day to submit online application for graduation for students completing degree requirements at the end of the fall semester.

Winter semester

January 5, 2026	University reopens.
January 12, 2026	Lectures begin, winter semester.
	Last day to submit a return from leave of absence form, winter semester.

Last day to request reinstatement, winter semester.

Deadline for payment of fees or submission of Graduate Student Promissory Note, winter semester.

Last day to submit a program change request, winter semester.

Last day to change full-time/part-time status, winter semester.

Last day to submit a leave of absence form, winter semester.

January 23, 2025   End of regular registration period; last day to add courses, winter semester.

Last day to drop courses in fee-per-credit graduate programs and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees, winter semester.

Last day to withdraw from a flat-fee graduate program and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees, winter semester.

February 6, 2026   Last day to withdraw from winter semester courses without academic consequences (i.e., without receiving a grade). Courses dropped after this date will be recorded on the academic transcript with a grade of W to indicate withdrawal.

Last day to drop courses in fee-per-credit graduate programs and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees, winter semester.

Last day to withdraw from a flat-fee graduate program and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees, winter semester.

February 16, 2026	Family Day, no lectures.
February 17 to 22, 2026	Winter study week, no lectures.
February 28, 2026	Last day to submit online application for graduation for the spring session of convocation for students completing degree requirements at the end of the winter semester.
March 20, 2026	Last day to withdraw from winter semester courses. Active winter semester courses will be graded by instructors.
April 3, 2026	Good Friday, no scheduled academic activities.
April 5, 2026	Easter Sunday, no scheduled academic activities.
April 13, 2026	Lectures end, winter semester. Lectures will follow the Friday schedule on this day only.
April 14, 2026	Study break, no lectures.
April 15 to 25, 2026	Winter semester final examination period. Students are advised not to make commitments during this period (i.e., vacation, travel plans).
April 22, 2026	Last day to submit final thesis package to program office to ensure graduation by end of winter semester.
	Last day for faculty to submit Certificate of Approval for project/paper to the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to ensure graduation by end of winter semester.

April 30, 2026

        Winter Semester grades released.

Spring/Summer semester

May 11, 2026   Lectures begin, six-week spring session and 12-week summer semester.

        Last day to submit a return from leave of absence form, summer semester.

        Last day to request reinstatement, summer semester.

        Deadline for payment of fees or submission of Graduate Student Promissory Note, six-week spring session and 12-week summer semester.

        Last day to submit a program change request, summer semester.

        Last day to change full-time/part-time status, summer semester.

        Last day to submit a leave of absence form, summer semester.

May 15, 2026   Last day to add six-week spring session courses.

Last day to drop six-week spring session courses in fee-per-credit programs and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees.

| May 18, 2026 | Victoria Day, no lectures. |

| May 25, 2026 | Last day to add courses, 12-week summer semester.

Last day to drop 12-week summer semester courses in fee-per-credit graduate programs and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees.

Last day to withdraw from a flat-fee graduate program and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees, summer semester.

Last day to withdraw from six-week spring session courses without academic consequences (i.e., without receiving a grade). Courses dropped after this date will be recorded on the academic transcript with a grade of W to indicate withdrawal.

Last day to withdraw from six-week spring session courses in fee-per-credit graduate programs and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees.

| June 3-5, 2026 | Spring Convocation. |

| June 8, 2026 | Last day to withdraw from 12-week summer semester courses without academic consequences (i.e., without receiving a grade). Courses dropped after this date will be recorded on the academic transcript with a grade of W to indicate withdrawal.

Last day to drop 12-week summer semester courses in fee-per-credit graduate programs and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees.

Last day to withdraw from a flat-fee graduate program and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees, summer semester.

June 10, 2026   Last day to withdraw from six-week spring session courses. Active six-week spring session courses will be graded by instructors.

June 22, 2026   Lectures end, six-week spring session.

Last day to submit an online application for graduation for students completing degree requirements at the end of the spring session.

June 23, 2026   Spring six-week session study break, no lectures.

June 23 to 27, 2026   Study break, 12-week summer semester, no lectures.

June 24 to 27, 2026   Spring session final examination period. Students are advised not to make commitments during this period (i.e., vacation, travel plans).

June 29, 2026   Lectures begin, six-week summer session.

Deadline for payment of fees or submission of Graduate Student Promissory Note (fee-per-credit programs only), six-week summer session.

Lectures resume, 12-week summer semester.

July 1, 2026   Canada Day, no scheduled academic activities.

July 2, 2026	Spring session grades released.
July 6, 2026	Last day to add courses, six-week summer session.
	Last day to drop six-week summer session courses in fee-per-credit graduate programs and receive a 100 per cent refund of tuition and ancillary fees.
July 13, 2026	Last day to withdraw from six-week summer session courses without academic consequences (i.e., without receiving a grade). Courses dropped after this date will be recorded on the academic transcript with a grade of W to indicate withdrawal.
	Last day to drop six-week summer session courses in fee-per-credit graduate programs and receive a 50 per cent refund of tuition fees.
July 20, 2026	
	Last day to withdraw from twelve-week summer semester courses. Active summer semester courses will be graded by instructors.
July 29, 2026	Last day to withdraw from six-week summer session courses. Active six-week summer courses will be graded by instructors.
August 3, 2026	Civic Holiday, no lectures.
August 10, 2026	

	Last day to submit online application for graduation for students completing degree requirements at the end of the summer session.
August 11, 2026	Lectures will follow the Wednesday schedule on this day only. Lectures end, 12-week summer semester and six-week summer session.
August 12, 2026	Study break, no lectures.
August 13 to 16, 2026	Six-week summer session and 12-week summer semester final examination period. Students are advised not to make commitments during this period (i.e., vacation, travel plans).
August 18, 2026	Last day for faculty to submit Certificate of Approval for project/paper to the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to ensure graduation by end of summer semester.
August 18, 2026	Last day to submit final thesis package to program office to ensure graduation by end of summer semester.
August 21, 2026	Summer session and Spring/Summer semester grades released

Notes:

- The Summer session and Spring/Summer semester grade release date is not necessarily inclusive of grades associated with final thesis package submissions ahead of the August 18, 2026 deadline.

- Courses offered outside the normal teaching timeframe will have add/drop deadlines pro-rated accordingly. In such cases, faculties will advise students of appropriate deadline dates during the first meeting of the class.
- It is expected that students in a fee-per-credit program will register before the beginning of classes. If you register in a fee-per-credit course after the tuition payment deadline, your tuition fees are due immediately and you may be assessed a late payment fee. Visit gradstudies.ontariotechu.ca/tuitionandfees for a list of fee-per-credit programs.
- Deadlines related to the following can be found on the Graduate Studies website: application deadlines for admission to graduate programs; deadlines for the submission of projects and major papers; deadlines for the submission of theses/dissertations and defences; tuition refund deadlines for thesis completion during a term; and deadlines for scholarships, awards and bursaries.
- Spring/summer session courses in Education may run on a schedule that varies from the above. Consult the ~~Mitch and Leslie~~ Frazer Faculty of Education's website for specific start and end dates.
- Fall convocation will be held in October 2025. Spring convocation will be held in June 2026. For more details, please refer to ontariotechu.ca/convocation.

Graduate Studies Committee

Monthly Library Report

Date:　　　　June 16, 2025

Save the date: **Monday, August 18th, 2-3pm,**

GRAD PRO SKILLS WORKSHOP.

Open Access and Sharing Your Research

Conducted by Mia Clarkson, Scholarly Communications and Copyright Librarian

Open Access (OA) Scholarship is a great way to share knowledge broadly and increase the impact of research outputs, but it can also be overwhelming without the resources to succeed in the larger scholarly publishing framework. In this workshop the library will help you navigate issues such as:

- Understanding Open Access and its advantages
- The difference between green, gold, and platinum Open Access
- Terms of publisher contracts including embargos and publishing fees or Author Processing Charges (APCs)
- Publishing discounts for Ontario Tech affiliated researchers
- Funding requirements including the Tri-Agency Open Access Policy
- Recognizing predatory publishing and finding high-quality, trustworthy OA journals

Registration will be posted here.

Mia's GPS workshop **Communicating Research with Social Media: Strategies for Engaging Non-Experts** in May was popular, with 20 registrants. Mia has been asked to run it again in the Fall, date TBD.