ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Graduate Studies Committee - Public
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AGENDA
Date: May 27, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.
Zoom Videoconference Link (registration required)

Meeting Materials

No.		Topic	Lead	Suggested Start Time
		Public Session		
1.		**Call to Order**	Chair	9:00 a.m.
2.		*Agenda* (M)		
3.		*Chair's Remarks**		
4.		**Consent Agenda* (M)**		
	4.1	*Public Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Meeting** (M)	Chair	
	4.2	Minor Curricular Changes **Course Change:** ENGR 5980G/5965G - Digital Devices and Techniques for Smart Grid Automation and Protection		
	4.3	*2025-2026 Graduate Academic Schedule - Amendment** (I)		
	4.4	Faculty Reports (I) a) Faculty Reports i) *FSSH** b) *Library Report**		

		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		
6.		**Volunteer for June Land Acknowledgement**	Chair	
7.		**Termination (M)**	Chair	

Nicola Crow, University Secretary

Graduate Studies Committee

May 2025

Report of the Chair – Pejman Mirza-Babaei, Ph.D.,

Associate Dean, School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

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.

SGPS Updates and Events

Summer 2025 initiatives:

Over the Summer of 2025, the SGPS team will focus on a set of prioritized initiatives aimed at strengthening graduate and postdoctoral support. These initiatives will include:

- A review of thesis and graduate faculty policies

- Updates to the terms of reference for awards and scholarships

- Planning and enhancement of graduate and postdoctoral engagement activities

- Streamlining of key student-facing processes

Each initiative will be co-led by an Associate Dean and a Manager, with dedicated support from at least one SGPS staff member to ensure effective coordination and implementation.

3MT Provincial Competition Achievement:

We are excited to share that MSc student **Salma Bafagih** (Faculty of Health Sciences, supervised by **Dr. JoAnne Arcand**) placed 2nd in the 2025 Ontario

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Provincial Competition, hosted by the University of Toronto.

New Post Doctoral Fellows Collective Agreement:

We are pleased to share that the university and PSAC have successfully reached an agreement on updates to the Post Doctoral Fellows Collective Agreement. These changes introduce greater flexibility to enhance the growth of our postdoctoral community. Key updates include:

Contract Duration: The agreement now allows for contracts as short as six months, a reduction from the previous one-year minimum. This change provides supervisors with greater flexibility in offering postdoctoral positions, making it easier to respond to project needs and recruitment opportunities.

Timeline Restriction Removed: The restriction regarding the timeline after the PhD award has been removed. Postdoctoral contracts can now be offered to individuals regardless of when they completed their PhD. This modification is particularly beneficial for global mobility and career transitions.

Language Change Regarding Degrees: The language in the agreement has been updated from requiring a "PhD" to simply requiring a "Doctorate." This change ensures that individuals with other doctorate degrees are now eligible for postdoctoral positions, broadening opportunities for qualified candidates.

Salary Increase: The agreement also includes a salary adjustment that aligns with current trends in the sector, ensuring that our postdoctoral fellows are compensated in comparison to similar institutions and sectors.

These updates are expected to significantly strengthen our ability to attract and retain top-tier postdoctoral fellows, contributing to the growth and dynamism of our research community.

Scholarship Updates

Vector Scholarship in AI 2025-26 Outcomes: We are happy to report that three of our applicants were successful, with a total amount of $52,500 allocated to our university.

Vanier CGS 2024-2025 Competition Outcomes: We are happy to report that two of our applicants were successful, with a total amount of $300,000 allocated to our university.

Base Camp, Grad Pro Skills and Graduate Engagement

Grad Pro Skills

Conquering your workplace fears

Communicating Research with Social Media: Strategies for Engaging Non-Experts

Managing Anxiety and Stress (in my job search and life)

Graduate Engagement

Spring Orientation, May 7th
- 11 students attended
- International, accessibility services, and teaching & learning were guest speakers

Looking to recruit graduate student faculty from Engineering for Canadian Nuclear Laboratory Immersive Experience on June 23rd - June 27th with 16 graduate students

Graduate Student and Postdoc Celebrations!

The University Selection Committee, chaired by Associate Dean SGPS, met to determine the winners of the 2025 Outstanding Thesis Awards. The award winners will receive a physical award and monetary prize ($500 for doctoral, $250 for master's) and will be noted in the Convocation program.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

The 2025 Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award recipient is:

Akash Samanta, PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering (FEAS)
- Akash's thesis is entitled: Cloud and Digital-Twin Enhanced Thermal Safety Framework for E-Mobility Battery Management Systems
- Akash's supervisor was Dr. Sheldon Williamson.

The 2025 Outstanding Master's Thesis Award recipients are:

Refka Albayati, Master of Health Sciences (FHSc)
- Refka's thesis is entitled: Bridging the Gap: A Competency Framework for Non-Clinical Simulation Technicians
- Refka's supervisor was Dr. Adam Dubrowski.

Abraham Amini, MSc in Modelling and Computational Science (FSc)

- Abraham's thesis is entitled: Staffing Queueing Systems with Cyclical Demand and Unreliable Servers
- Abraham's supervisor was Dr. Amir Rastpour.

Jakob Anderson, MSc in Computer Science (FSc)
- Jakob's thesis is entitled: Exploring Temporal Volumetric Video Compression using Signed Distance Fields
- Jakob's supervisor was Dr. Andrew Hogue.

Andrew Bondoc, MASc in Mechanical Engineering (FEAS)
- Andrew's thesis is entitled: Developing a Calibrated Low Fidelity Model and an Optimized Sensor Network Using LIVE Digital Twin for Pipelines in Oil and Gas Industries
- Andrew's supervisor was Dr. Ahmad Barari.

Sarah Kirkpatrick, MSc in Forensic Psychology (FSSH)
- Sarah's thesis is entitled: Consent and Sexual Assault in Heterosexual versus Same-Sex Sexual Encounters
- Sarah's supervisors were Dr. Karla Emeno and Dr. Shannon Vettor.

The following students submitted their final thesis packages and successfully completed their program since the most recent GSC meeting:

Student: Ruvini Wathsala De Seram Edirisooriya Mohottige
Program: MASc in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Thesis Title: Reconfigurable Multiport Solid-State Transformer for DC Fast Charging Stations
Supervisor: Sheldon Williamson
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: March 10, 2025

Student: Abdelrahman Elewah
Program: PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Thesis Title: SensorsConnect: World Wide Web For Internet of Things
Supervisor: Khalid Elgazzar
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: March 17, 2025

Student: Naser Tanabi
Program: PhD *en cotutelle* in Mechanical Engineering

Thesis Title: Monitoring Separation Process in Separator Tanks by Ultrasound Technique
Supervisor: Ahmad Barari (Ontario Tech) & Marcos de Sales Guerra Tsuzuki (University of São Paulo)
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: March 26, 2025

Student: Mohit Sharma
Program: MASc in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Thesis Title: Physics-Informed Gated Recurrent Unit Neural Networks Model for Surface Temperature Estimation of Lithium-ion batteries
Supervisor: Sheldon Williamson
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: March 29, 2025

Student: Zohaib Masood
Program: MSc in Computer Science
Thesis Title: Beyond Rules: How Large Language Models are Redefining Cryptographic
Supervisor: Miguel Vargas Martin
Faculty: Science
Completed: March 31, 2025

Student: Leila Farsi
Program: Master of Health Sciences
Thesis Title: Developing a Predictive Model for Factors Related to Risk of Aggression in Psychiatric Inpatients Using Physiological and Clinical Data
Supervisor: Carolyn McGregor
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: April 1, 2025

Student: Seyed Amir Ali Bozorgnia Tabary
Program: MASc in Mechanical Engineering
Thesis Title: Advancing Sustainability in Additive Manufacturing: Material Formulation and Process Development for Recycled PET and PET/HDPE Blend
Supervisor: Ramona Fayazfar
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: April 4, 2025

Student: Vaishali Siddeshwar
Program: MASc in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Thesis Title: Automated Goal Model Generation From User Stories Using Large Language Models
Supervisor: Sanaa Alwidian & Masoud Makrehchi
Faculty: Electrical and Computer Engineering
Completed: April 8, 2025

Student: Akash Samanta
Program: PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Thesis Title: Cloud and Digital-Twin Enhanced Thermal Safety Framework for E-Mobility Battery Management Systems
Supervisor: Sheldon Williamson
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: April 9, 2025

Student: Sibel Uygun Batgi
Program: PhD in Mechanical Engineering
Thesis Title: Experimental And Theoretical Investigation of New Electrolysisless Copper-Chlorine Cycle for Hydrogen Generation
Supervisor: Ibrahim Dincer
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: April 11, 2025

Student: Bridve Sivakumar
Program: PhD in Health Sciences
Thesis Title: Co-Design and Evaluation of a mHealth Intervention to Enhance Dietary Self-management and Adherence in Patients with Heart Failure
Supervisor: JoAnne Arcand & Manon Lemonde
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: April 11, 2025

Student: Reza SoleimaniMajd
Program: MASc in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Thesis Title: Structure-Based Learning via Graph Neural Networks for Multi-Group Multicast Beamforming
Supervisor: Min Dong
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: April 11, 2025

Student: Farzaneh Nikbaktsarvestani
Program: PhD in Computer Science
Thesis Title: Novel Optimizers for Multi-Objective Deep Learning
Supervisor: Mehran Ebrahimi & Shahryar Rahnamayan

Faculty: Science
Completed: April 14, 2025

Student: Mandeep Goyal
Program: MASc in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Thesis Title: Design and Development of an LLM-Based Framework for Synthetic Data Generation
Supervisor: Qusay Mahmoud
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: April 15, 2025

Student: Sabir Hossain
Program: PhD in Mechanical Engineering
Thesis Title: Enhanced Mapping and Perception by Leveraging Sensor Fusion and Attention-Driven Networks
Supervisor: Xianke Lin
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: April 16, 2025

Student: Ashadullah Shawon
Program: MASc in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Thesis Title: A Retrieval Augmented Generation Fine-Tuned LLM Model for Refactored Code Recommendations to Mitigate Java Lock Contention Performance Faults
Supervisor: Akramul Azim & Ramiro Liscano
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: April 16, 2025

Student: Refka Albayati
Program: Master of Health Sciences
Thesis Title: Bridging the Gap: A Competency Framework for Non-Clinical Simulation Technicians
Supervisor: Adam Dubrowski
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: April 16, 2025

Student: Seyed Mahmoud Seyedi Sahebari
Program: PhD in Mechanical Engineering
Thesis Title: Real-time Process Monitoring of Spark-Assisted Chemical Engraving (SACE) Machine with Data-Driven Techniques
Supervisor: Jana Abou Ziki & Ahmad Barari
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science

Completed: April 17, 2025

Student: Tania Sanai Shimabukuro
Program: MSc in Computer Science
Thesis Title: Gaze-Enabled Implicit Interaction for Scatterplots
Supervisor: Christopher Collins
Faculty: Science
Completed: April 17, 2025

Student: Kriti Shah
Program: MA in Criminology
Thesis Title: Balancing Act: An Exploration of the Impacts of Acculturation Amongst First-Generation Indian Immigrant Youths in Canada
Supervisor: Karla Dhungana Sainju
Faculty: Social Science and Humanities
Completed: April 17, 2025

Student: Adam Rodrigues
Program: MA in Criminology
Thesis Title: Chemical Valley: Media Representations of an Inconvenient Truth and a Comforting Lie
Supervisor: Shahid Alvi
Faculty: Social Science and Humanities
Completed: April 17, 2025

Student: Kaitlin Ramkumar
Program: Master of Health Sciences
Thesis Title: Women's Perspectives of Home Birth with a Traditional Birth Attendant in the East African Community: A Qualitative Evidence Synthesis
Supervisor: Ginny Brunton
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: April 17, 2025

Student: Maykah Lochan-Aristide
Program: Master of Health Sciences
Thesis Title: Falling Through the Gaps: The Experiences of Older Black People with Community-Based Fall Prevention Exercise Programs
Supervisor: Shilpa Dogra
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: April 17, 2025

Student: Shakiba Kamalinejad

Program: Master of Health Sciences
Thesis Title: Immigrants', Refugees' and their Families' Perspectives of Midwifery Care in Canada, the Netherlands and New Zealand; A Qualitative Evidence Synthesis
Supervisor: Ginny Brunton
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: April 17, 2025

Student: Zohreh Hosseini
Program: Master of Health Sciences
Thesis Title: 'Preparing Undergraduate Medical Laboratory Students for Laboratory Practices using a Gamified Virtual Simulation (G-VSim)' 'Effects of a Gamified Virtual Simulation (G-VSim) as a Preparation Tool
Supervisor: Adam Dubrowski & Brenda Gamble
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: April 17, 2025

Student: Asjad Elahi
Program: MASc in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Thesis Title: Advancements in Resonant and Current Source Gate Driving Techniques for Fast Switching Wide Band Gap (WBG) Metal Oxide Field Effect Transistors (MOSFETs)
Supervisor: Mohamed Youssef
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: April 24, 2025

Student: Omar Hemied
Program: MASc in Software Engineering
Thesis Title: AI-Driven Optimization Framework with Domain-Specific Large Language Models for Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Deployment
Supervisor: Hossam Gaber
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: April 24, 2025

Student: Kimberly Adie
Program: Master of Health Sciences
Thesis Title: The Impact of Chiropractic Manipulation on Pain, Functional Outcomes and Gait Symmetry in Dogs with Mobility Impairments Using Clinical Measurement and Gait Analysis Instruments
Supervisor: Bernadette Murphy
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: April 24, 2025

Student: Karen Liu
Program: Master of Health Sciences
Thesis Title: Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Health Care Accessibility among Visible Minority Females living in Canadian Metropolitan Cities
Supervisor: Brenda Gamble
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: April 28, 2025

Student: Teighan Mittal-Mercer
Program: MA in Criminology
Thesis Title: Barriers for Rural Youth Accessing Mental Health Care with Complex or Reduced Parental Support
Supervisor: Tyler Frederick
Faculty: Social Science and Humanities
Completed: May 5, 2025

Student: Mercy Nandutu
Program: MASc in Nuclear Engineering
Thesis Title: Initial Analysis of Dose Impact from a Generic SMR to the Emergency Planning Zone
Supervisor: Akira Tokuhiro & Filippo Genco
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: May 5, 2025

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
GRAUDATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (GSC)

Minutes of the Public Session of the March 25, 2025, Meeting
via Videoconference
9:05 a.m. - 9:32 a.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

[Graduate Studies Committee Agendas, Materials and Minutes 2024-2025](#)

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

Regrets: A. Cooper, L. Jacobs, A. Kiani, L. Livingston, S. Marsh, L. VanVeen

Staff & Guests: K. Ayotte (Secretary), N. Crow, A. Kassaris, H. MacPherson, K. McCartney, T. Mirrlees, J. Pereira, B. Tranter, S. Windsor, A. Wingate

1. **Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**
   The Chair called the Public session of the GSC meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and read aloud the Land Acknowledgement.

2. **Agenda (M)**
   D. Papke requested to remove Item 5.2: New Course ENGR5980G Digital Devices and Techniques for Smart Grid Automation and Protection, from the Consent Agenda advising members that it was already approved by GSC during the February meeting with the Major Program Adjustment (MPA) for Electrical and Computer Engineering.

   Upon a motion duly made by N. Wattie and seconded by F. Gaspari, the Agenda was approved as amended, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents.

3. **Chair's Remarks**
   The Chair welcomed the attendees and highlighted the recent successful 3MT Thesis Competition in which 17 students participated this year, noting the winner will be going onto Regionals this summer.

4. New Program Proposal (Approval)

4.1 Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Master of Social Media Communication in Online Creators* (M)

A. Slane presented the new program proposal from Faculty of Social Science and Humanities and welcomed T. Mirrlees to provide additional information.

T. Mirrlees shared that Ontario Tech is launching a Professional Master's program focused on the influencer/creator economy, distinct from a traditional Master of Arts. The program spans social media professions like advocacy, branding, government relations and entrepreneurship, and has global appeal. He noted that it received very positive feedback during the external review process from a leader in this field, which highlighted its future-focused approach. It was also the first program of its kind in North America. Set for launch in 2026–2027, it will be fully online, accessible to students from fields like media, business, social sciences, and computer science. The program will equip students with skills in content creation, coding, marketing, and social sciences, serving both recent graduates and professionals looking to upskill. It aligns with Ontario Tech's strategic goals to stay at the forefront of this rapidly growing field.

T. Mirrlees highlighted the potential for cross-faculty collaboration and access pathways for students.

In response to a question regarding library resources, T. Mirrlees noted that existing library resources are sufficient, as relevant journals are already available. While the program is practice-focused, it incorporates theory and research to support professional skills, including algorithm analysis and content genres.

The discussion highlighted broad agreement on the program's relevance across disciplines. Members recognized the importance of the program and its ability to support learning in ethical communication and countering misinformation to align with broader societal challenges.

There was also consensus that the program should remain open to applicants from diverse fields, including engineering, energy, and sciences, even without prior social media expertise. Its accessible design ensures professionals across sectors can develop essential digital communication skills, reflecting the growing influence of social media in industries such as healthcare, government, and advocacy.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Slane and seconded by O. Marques, the GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Master of Social Media Communication in Online Creators program and the subsequent recommendation of the program to the Board.

5. Consent Agenda* (M)
    5.1   Public Minutes of the February 25, 2025, Meeting* (M)
    5.2   Memo:
          [MBAI 5600G - editorial change in calendar description](#)
    5.3   Faculty Reports* (I)
          a) Faculty Reports
          b) Graduate Student Report
          c) Library Report
    5.4   Associate Graduate Faculty

- Mechanical Engineering and Software Engineering, Taufiq Rahman, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Mechanical Engineering, Holly Jones Taggart, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering, Sheldon Williamson, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Mechatronics Engineering, Rickey Dubay, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Automotive Engineering, Jing Ren, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Nuclear Engineering, Fedor Naumkin, Faculty of Science
- Health Sciences, Michael Holmes, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Derek Manis, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Susanna Mak, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Applied Bioscience, Vaughn Mangal, Faculty of Science
- Applied Bioscience, Eve Gilroy, Faculty of Science
- Applied Bioscience, Kirk Atkinson, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Forensic Psychology, Tanya Karam-Zanders, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

        Emeritus Graduate Faculty
- Education, Bill Hunter, Faculty of Education

The Chair confirmed that the contents of the Consent Agenda were approved and received under Agenda Item #2.

6. Volunteer for April Land Acknowledgement
P. Mirza Babaei volunteered to provide the April Land Acknowledgement.

7. Adjournment (M)
There being no other business, and upon a motion duly made by F. Quereshi, the Public session of the GSC meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The GSC moved into a Non-Public Session to finalize housekeeping items and upon a motion duly made by J. Arcand, the meeting terminated at 9:32 a.m.

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary

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 21, 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. Summer session and Spring/Summer semester grades released
August 22, 2026	Last day to submit final thesis package to program office to ensure graduation by end of summer semester.

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 22, 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.

Preamble

This report template is designed for use by the members of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) at Ontario Tech University to facilitate focused and strategic discussions in the Graduate Studies Committee meetings. Reports will support understanding of developments and discussions across Faculties and Departments. The purpose of this template is to:

- Showcase achievements and innovative initiatives.
- Share collaborative efforts within and outside the university.
- Outline strategic goals and plans for graduate studies.

The template guides the presentation of information in a structured and concise manner, enabling productive dialogue and strategic planning.

Graduate Studies Committee Report Template

Faculty / Unit / Society Represented: Criminology, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

Submitted By: Name and Position Olga Marques, GPD Criminology

Section 1: Departmental Highlights and Achievements

- *Major Achievements:*

- *Innovative Initiatives:*

Section 2: Collaborative Efforts and Interdisciplinary Activities

- *Internal Collaborations:*

- *External Partnerships*

Section 3: Strategic Development and Future Plans

- *Strategic Goal Setting / Open Meetings:*

- *Upcoming Projects/Initiatives:* Currently working on creating a 3rd stream for our MA Criminology program: coursework only (to complement the thesis and major paper streams)

Section 4: Additional Information

- *Noteworthy Mentions / Shout outs:*

- *Graduate courses or events requiring support or amplification:*

Save the Date & Upcoming Events

- *Next Graduate Studies/Faculty Council meeting:*

- *Upcoming consultation on programs or initiatives:*

Event 1: Date/Brief Description

Event 2: Date/Brief Description

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

At our Libraries, you can borrow:

- Laptops and mice
- Chargers
- Calculators
- Network cables
- Headphones
- Podcast kit

The North Oshawa Campus Library has:

- 10 bookable group study rooms, 2 silent study rooms
- Computer stations, open workspaces, study carrels
- The Dixon-Alger Fireside Reading Room

The Social Science, Humanities, and Education Library has:

- 2 bookable study rooms, 1 silent study room
- Computer station, open workspaces, study carrels
- The Lois Sleightholm Education Room

ACCESSIBILITY

The Library provides equitable access to a full range of services, resources, and facilities for all by recognizing individual needs. Anyone requiring accommodations is encouraged to ask for assistance from library staff.

ACE Portal

The Accessible Content E-Portal (ACE) offers 5 different accessible formats (including DAISY and ePub) for more than 15,000 books across 20 subject areas. If you require material in an alternative format, please contact library.accessibility@ontariotechu.ca.
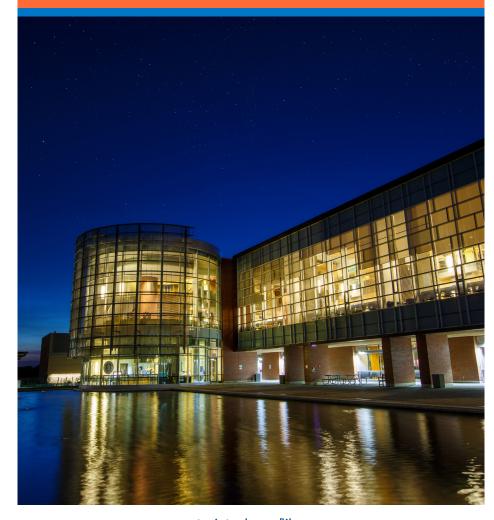
Adaptive Equipment

The bookable Assisted Use Carrel room is on the fourth floor of the North Oshawa Library. There is a height-adjustable table, and computer with 22" monitor, loaded with adaptive software, including:

- Zoom Text (Ver. 10.1)
- Read and Write (Ver. 11)

FIND OUR LIBRARY
LINKS HERE
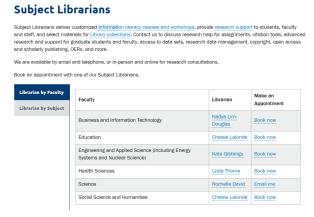
OntarioTech Library

Library Guide for Graduate Students

ontariotechu.ca/library
905.721.3082
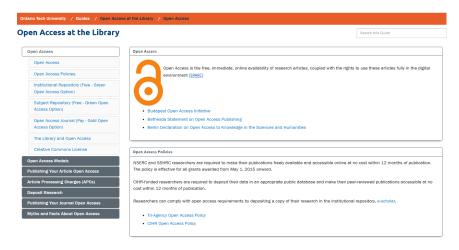Ontario Tech Libraries

SUBJECT SPECIALIST LIBRARIANS

Make sure to connect with your librarian, who can assist with:

- Research consultations regarding search strategies using Omni and discipline-specific databases
- Finding and using specialized information sources such as data, statistics, standards, patents, and industry and company information.
- Effectively using citation management tools to organize your references and integrate them into documents
- Assistance with copyright questions related to your thesis and publishing

Scan our QR code to book an appointment with your Librarian.

We can also help you in navigating open access publishing options, understanding author processing charges and more.

SEARCH OUR COLLECTIONS USING OMNI

You can borrow from a circulating collection of thousands of print books and other materials,which can be delivered by mail to your home at no cost. Access to hundreds of thousands of full-text electronic journals and ebooks, databases, and streaming video and media online.

ASK A LIBRARIAN CHAT

Get virtual reference help from anywhere!
Look for the Ask a Librarian Chat button on our website.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

If the materials you need aren't available in our Libraries, you can request them in Omni for Library pickup or mail delivery to your home (at no cost), or request print and digital material from other universities through interlibrary loan.

LIBRARY RESEARCH SKILLS FOR KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS

Graduate students working on comprehensive search strategies for their systematic reviews, scoping reviews, and other types of knowledge synthesis will find this course in Canvas answers many questions.

The course is comprised of 3 modules that are related to research related aspects of these types of projects:

- Planning the Review
- Identifying Studies & Other Sources
- Managing & Documenting Results