Academic Council
Graduate Studies Committee
January 28, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Via Google Meet
Join: https://meet.google.com/cqx-oqam-fad
Or dial: (CA) +1 778-746-8746 PIN: 209 917 155#

Graduate Studies Committee Agenda and Materials 2024-2025

AGENDA

PUBLIC SESSION

1. **Approval of the Agenda** — **C. Cesaroni**
2. **Approval of the *Minutes of the Meeting of November 26, 2024**** — **C. Cesaroni**
3. **Business Arising from the Minutes** — **C. Cesaroni**
4. ***Comments from the Chair*** — **C. Cesaroni**
5. **Minor Program Adjustments (Approval)**
   a) *Faculty of Health Sciences: Master of Science in Nursing (MScN)** (M) — **N. Wattie**
   b) *Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Forensic Psychology Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy – Direct Entry** (M) — **L. Harkins**
6. **Major Program Modifications (Recommendation)**
   a) *Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Master of Engineering (MEng) Nuclear Engineering** (M) — **A. Tokuhiro**
   b) *Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Master of Engineering (MEng) Software Engineering** (M) — **A. Azim**
   c) *Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Master of Arts in Social Practice and Innovation** (M) — **A. Slane**

7. For Information:

a) Minor Curricular Changes

- Course Change - HLSC - 5305G
- New Course - INFR - 7000G, INFR - 7100G, INFR - 7200G

b) Faculty Reports

i. Faculty Reports
ii. Graduate Student Report
iii. Research Report
iv. Library Report

c) Graduate, Associate Graduate, and Emeriti Faculty: Appointments

i. Associate Graduate Faculty

- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mehran Ebrahimi, Faculty of Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Moustafa El-Gindy, Faculty of Engineering And Applied Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Martin Agelin-Chaab, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Farhan Ghaffar, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Alaa Khamis, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Education, Ann LeSage, Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education
- Education, Jozef Colpaert, Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education
- Health Sciences, Amer Burhan, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Dale Button, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Andrea Tricco, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Eva Skillgate, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Jennifer Copeland, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Jennifer Crawford, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Jessica Wong, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Joel Cort, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Kelly Kay, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Louis Rachid Salmi, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Judith Andersen, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Michael Williams-Bell, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Marco Zaccagnini, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Shirley Quach, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Vincy Chan, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Sheilah Hogg-Johnson, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Stefano Negrini, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Mary L'Abbe, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Taryn Eickmeier, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Sara Guilcher, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Denina Simmons, Faculty of Science

ii. Graduate Faculty

- Health Sciences, Michelle Solomon, Faculty of Health Sciences

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

8. Cyclical Program Review (Approval)

a) Final Assessment Report and Program Learning Outcomes – Master of Information Technology Security* (M) **D. Papke**

9. Call for Volunteer for Land Acknowledgement for February Meeting

10. Termination

Kirstie Ayottte, Assistant University Secretary

Academic Council Graduate Studies Committee
Tuesday, November 26, 2024
9:05 a.m. – 9:41 a.m.

Via Google Meet

Graduate Studies Committee Agendas, Materials and Minutes 2024-2025

MINUTES

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

Staff & Guests: K. Ayotte (Secretary), S. Baglay, N. Crow, A. Kassaris, H. MacPherson, K. McCartney, S. Windsor

Regrets: F. Gaspari, K. Clarke, K. Elgazzar, L. Livingston, S. Marsh, A. Slane, L. VanVeen, N. Wattie,

P. Mirza Babaei called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
C. Davidson provided the Land Acknowledgement and honoured the late Honourable Murray Sinclair's legacy.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**
   Upon a motion duly made by R. Bailey and seconded by F. Quereshi, the November 26, 2024 GSC agenda was approved as presented.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 22, 2024**
   Upon a motion duly made by O. Marques and seconded by J. Arcand, the October 22, 2024 Minutes were approved as presented.

3. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
   None.

4. **Comments from the Chair**
   The Chair announced Gail Fuller's retirement and invited attendees to her celebration on December 16 at 12:30 PM at SIRC 1350. He also highlighted the SGPS Research Poster Showcase on November 27, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Charles Hall, featuring over 50 students and supported by internal and industry partners.

He noted that discussions between SGPS Associate Deans and Graduate Program Directors (GPDs) regarding graduate student recruitment are focusing on domestic students due to challenges with international recruitment under new Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) guidelines and advised a report summarizing these discussions will be shared in the New Year.

The Chair also provided updates from the recent Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) conference, particularly on generative AI's impact on graduate studies, noting that this is a topic for today's Colleague Exchange; the advantages of Individual Development Plans (IDPs) over traditional progress reports; and the growing trend towards holistic admission processes. Challenges with international student recruitment were noted as a concern across all Canadian universities.

J. Stokes advised that the provincial government has not yet received the federal allocation for the graduate student cap, which could delay compliance until mid-to-late January. He highlighted that this may affect graduate programs with deadlines in late January or February, and that extensions could be considered. He also mentioned that faculty would be consulted regarding any potential adjustments.

In response to a question, J. Stokes explained that if the University's allocation for international students is low, the quota system may prevent the acceptance of international students, even if funding is available. He noted that tightened visa approvals by IRCC are causing delays and denials. To address this, the University is collaborating with Border Pass, an immigration service that ensures students' applications are complete and assists with filing appeals for denied visas. Border Pass operates similarly to an immigration lawyer but at a lower cost. He cautioned that delays in the appeal process could push students to later terms, so affecting graduate programs.

5. Cyclical Program Review (Approval)

5.1 Final Assessment Report and Program Learning Outcomes* (M)

D. Papke presented MSc and PhD in Modelling and Computational Science Final Assessment Report and Program Learning Outcomes . He highlighted that Faculty Council, and the Academic Resource Committee have reviewed the implementation plan and following approval by GSC, the report and outcomes will be shared with Academic Council and the Board of Governors in February for information. He noted that the plan also lays the groundwork for continuous improvement, with a progress report scheduled for 18 months.

Motion:
Upon a motion duly made by J. Arcand and seconded by J. Abbass Dick, GSC hereby approves the Final Assessment Report, Executive Summary, Implementation Plan, and the revised Program Learning Outcomes resulting from the MSc and PhD in Modelling

and Computational Science Cyclical Program Review, as presented.

6. Reports

i. Faculty of Business and IT
   - S. Jackson noted that winter registration for the MITS program saw an increase of approximately 60 students. He mentioned that onboarding sessions for new students went well and that the Faculty is now planning for the 2025-2026 intake, considering potential government changes and strategies to address them.

ii. Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
   - No updates.

iii. Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education
   - R. Van Oostveen highlighted a challenge in the FEd with the Doctor of Education (EdD) program, where intake exceeds faculty supervision capacity. A meeting on December 4 will explore alternative methods of support for EdD students. The faculty is also preparing to review applications for the September 2025 cohort, with plans for a new approach to supervision.

iv. Faculty of Health Science
   - J. Abbass Dick noted the Master of Nursing Science program is successfully finishing its first cohort's project course this term. Alumni have been returning to present their thesis and projects, with another session scheduled for this week. Additionally, recruitment efforts are underway, with the program being promoted to undergraduates.

v. Faculty of Science
   - F. Qureshi advised that at a recent program meeting, it was discussed that internal scholarships should be assigned at the time offer letters are sent to students rather than months later. He noted that this change aims to make offers more attractive, and streamline the process. Further discussions with SGPS will take place to determine the best approach.
   - D. Bonetta noted that the Applied Bioscience (APBS) program has submitted its self-study and is planning a visit in January, as external reviewers are unavailable in December. Additionally, a new series of forms has been implemented for committee meetings, allowing students to have a record and receive feedback from these meetings.

vi. Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
   - Reference submitted written reports.

vii. Graduate Student Report
   - No updates.

viii. Library Report
   - C. Davidson encouraged graduate students to reach out to their dedicated subject librarians for research consultations and support in navigating resources. She mentioned the library's ongoing involvement in GradPro Skills

offerings, including an upcoming workshop on organizing literature. She also noted the recent addition of Mia Clarkson, who will assist with scholarly communications and related topics such as article processing charges and publication navigation. Additionally, she highlighted efforts to meet with Deans and Faculty Councils to raise awareness of these resources among faculty and students.

7. For Information

7.1 Minor Curricular Changes

Course Change – HLSC 5320UG, NURS 5096G, MSPI 5001G, MSPI 5002G

7.2 Graduate, Associate Graduate and Emeriti faculty appointments.

Associate Graduate Faculty

- Education, Anna Rodrigues, Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education
- Nuclear Engineering, Alvaro Joffre Uribe Quevedo, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Computer Science, Michael Glueck, Faculty of Science

Graduate Faculty

- Education, Efrosini Papaconstantinou, Faculty of Health Sciences

Emeritus Graduate Faculty

- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Vijay Sood, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Ramiro Liscano, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Software Engineering, Ramiro Liscano, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

8. Other Business

No volunteer noted for January GSC meeting. Any volunteers can contact K. Ayotte.

Termination

There being no other business, upon a motion duly made by A. Kiani the November 26, 2024, GSC meeting terminated at 9:41 a.m.

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary

Graduate Studies Committee

Report of the Chair – Carla Cesaroni, Ph.D., Associate Dean, SGPS
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.*

Chair's Remarks – January 2025

SGPS Updates and Events

Winter Orientation was held on Tuesday, January 7. This event provided an opportunity for over 100 new graduate students to connect with the SGPS team and university support and service partners. The event provided a forum to ask questions, discover resources, and explore ways to get involved in our campus community.

Supports and services that joined the orientation included:

- International
- Strategic Partnership Office
- Library Services
- Teaching & Learning
- Student Engagement & Equity
- Graduate Student Association
- Athletics
- Student Learning Centre
- Student Accessibility/Student Mental Health
- Career Centre

Postdoctoral Fellows Coffee with the Deans will be held on Tuesday, February 4 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Dixon/Alger Fireside Reading Room. Postdocs have been invited to join the Dean and Associate Deans of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for refreshments. The event will provide opportunities for networking and exchanging ideas in a relaxed setting.

The Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) is excited to announce the launch of the National Community of Practice (NCoP) on Graduate Supervision with the inaugural meeting on **Friday, January 31, 2025, from 11:00 am-12:30 pm (ET) on Zoom**. The NCoP on Graduate Supervision aims to bring together individuals with a shared commitment to advancing supervision practices and supervisor wellness through collaborative learning. The first meeting will outline some goals of the National CoP, explore common challenges in supervision, and feature a Best Practice Spotlight and Discussion.

We invite you to join us in this national collaborative conversation for knowledge engagement and professional growth.

Sharable Link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/dNlAXf8OSlmhfZs-EvApaA

Registration is now open for the **2025 Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition!**

This is a fantastic opportunity for our master's and PhD students to showcase their research and develop key communication skills. Participants will present their work—and its broader impact—in just three minutes, with only one static slide. are cash prizes of up to $1,000, plus a chance to represent Ontario Tech at the provincial 3MT® finals.

- **Heats**: Wednesday, March 19
- **Finals**: Thursday, March 20
- **Registration**: Open now and closes Friday, January 31

We'd really appreciate GPDs and supervisors to help in promoting the competition to students in your faculty. Whether it's a quick mention in your communications or just encouraging students directly, your support makes a big difference in getting students involved. If you or your students need more details, complete details are available on the SGPS website.

Grad Pro Skills and Graduate Engagement

Grad Engagement
Winter Orientation, January 7

Post-Orientation Sessions

- Plan your Journey - January 15
- Starting off Strong - January 23

Graduate Student and Postdoc Celebrations!

The following students submitted their final thesis packages and successfully completed their program since the last GSC report:

Student: Victoria Ginsley
Program: PhD in Criminology and Social Justice
Thesis Title: "Seeing the word 'police' can be a huge point of recoil": A Qualitative Examination of Trans People's Perceptions and Questions of Police Legitimacy
Supervisor: Barbara Perry & Carla Cesaroni
Faculty: Social Science and Humanities
Completed: November 18, 2024

Student: Kevin Mariscal
Program: MSc in Applied Bioscience
Thesis Title: Strategic Modification of Oligonucleotides with Carboxylic Acids Containing Small Molecules
Supervisor: Jean-Paul Desaulniers
Faculty: Science
Completed: November 26, 2024

Student: Saikat Basak
Program: MASc in Nuclear Engineering
Thesis Title: Artificial Neural Network and Dynamic Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Passive Safety Systems
Supervisor: Lixuan Lu
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 2, 2024

Student: Irmina Klicnik
Program: PhD in Health Sciences
Thesis Title: Redefining Active Aging: Critical Insights from Different Living Environments
Supervisor: Shilpa Dogra
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: December 9, 2024

Student: Mariana Shimabukuro
Program: PhD in Computer Science
Thesis Title: Promoting Autonomy for Language Learning Powered by Data-driven Methods and Learner-centred Design
Supervisor: Christopher Collins
Faculty: Science
Completed: December 11, 2024

Student: Michele Dell'Aquila
Program: MSc in Applied Bioscience
Thesis Title: Characterizing Water Quality, Nutrients, and Dissolved Oxygen Dynamics in Four Lake Ontario Coastal Wetlands
Supervisor: Andrea Kirkwood
Faculty: Science
Completed: December 11, 2024

Student: Jakob Anderson
Program: MSc in Computer Science
Thesis Title: Exploring Temporal Volumetric Video Compression using Signed Distance Fields
Supervisor: Andrew Hogue
Faculty: Science
Completed: December 11, 2024

Student: Eyad Tamimi
Program: MASc in Nuclear Engineering
Thesis Title: Evaluation of Fast Neutron Shielding Effectiveness in Light-Element Compounds
Supervisor: Rachid Machrafi & Kirk Atkinson
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 11, 2024

Student: Christopher Baird
Program: PhD in Mechanical Engineering
Thesis Title: Development of Advanced Industrial Applications for Quadruped Robots
Supervisor: Scott Nokleby
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 12, 2024

Student: Farimah Hosseinnouri
Program: MASc in Mechanical Engineering
Thesis Title: Assessment of Climatic Chamber Snow Simulations
Supervisor: Horia Hangan
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 12, 2024

Student: Amy Petch
Program: MSc in Applied Bioscience
Thesis Title: In-vitro analysis of microfilariae phenotypic responses induced by small molecules and dsRNA targeting receptor pathways
Supervisor: Sean Forrester
Faculty: Science
Completed: December 12, 2024

Student: Mert Temiz
Program: PhD in Mechanical Engineering
Thesis Title: Investigation of New KOH and NaOH Thermochemical Cycles for Hydrogen Production and Carbon Capturing
Supervisor: Ibrahim Dincer
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 16, 2024

Student: Mohamed Ismail
Program: PhD in Mechanical Engineering
Thesis Title: Investigation of Nanoparticles Enriched Phase Change Materials for Improved Thermal Performance of Energy Storage Applications
Supervisor: Ibrahim Dincer
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 16, 2024

Student: Mehmet Kavalci
Program: MASc in Nuclear Engineering
Thesis Title: Heat Transfer to Supercritical Water Flowing in Short Vertical Bare Tube and Rod-Bundle Geometries
Supervisor: Igor Pioro
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 16, 2024

Student: Md Asif Khan
Program: PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Thesis Title: Automated Test Case Prioritization using Machine Learning for Large Scale Continuous Integration Environments
Supervisor: Akramul Azim & Ramiro Liscano
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 16, 2024

Student: Mohammad Javad Ganji
Program: MASc in Mechanical Engineering
Thesis Title: Improving the Performance of Cylindrical Batteries at Elevated Temperatures Using PCM-Based Thermal Management Methods
Supervisor: Martin Agelin-Chaab & Marc Rosen
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 16, 2024

Student: Ghazal Bangash
Program: MSc in Computer Science
Thesis Title: HoloPaws: Run – A Comparative Study of Exergame User Interfaces in Mixed Reality and Mobile Devices
Supervisor: Loutfouz Zaman
Faculty: Science
Completed: December 16, 2024

Student: Ryuta Dharmaputra
Program: Master of Health Sciences
Thesis Title: A Comparison of Digital Human Model Ergonomics Outputs Driven by Optical and Inertial Motion Capture Systems in Virtual Reality
Supervisor: Nicholas La Delfa
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: December 16, 2024

Student: Abhinav Sharma
Program: MSc in Computer Science
Thesis Title: Hybrid ConVIRT - Enhancing Medical Image-Text Representation Learning of Vision Language Models
Supervisor: Mehran Ebrahimi & Kourosh Davoudi
Faculty: Science
Completed: December 16, 2024

Student: Benjamin Allen
Program: Master of Health Sciences
Thesis Title: Determining Effort Durations for Common Automotive Manufacturing Tasks
Supervisor: Nicholas La Delfa
Faculty: Health Sciences
Completed: December 16, 2024

Student: Kgalalelo Rampete
Program: MSc in Applied Bioscience
Thesis Title: The Synthesis and Characterization of Alginate-Melanin Hydrogels for Applications in Forensic Science
Supervisor: Theresa Stotesbury
Faculty: Science
Completed: December 17, 2024

Student: Lauren Bergman
Program: MASc in Nuclear Engineering
Thesis Title: A Seasonal Analysis of the Geospatial Off-Site Dose Consequences of Hypothetical Accidents at Canadian Nuclear Generating Stations
Supervisor: Ed Waller
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 17, 2024

Student: Babangida Zachariah
Program: MASc in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Thesis Title: Fuzzy Logic-Based Intersection Management for Delay Minimization in Intelligent Transportation Systems Using V2X Communication
Supervisor: Khalid Elgazzar & Sanaa Alwidian
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 17, 2024

Student: Wing Yi Pao
Program: PhD in Mechanical Engineering
Thesis Title: Methodology Development and Evaluation of Automotive LiDAR Performance in Rain
Supervisor: Martin Agelin-Chaab
Faculty: Engineering and Applied Science
Completed: December 18, 2024

Student: Kasie Maurice
Program: MA in Criminology
Thesis Title: “Nothing Will Stop Them”: A Qualitative Approach to Gender Performance Online Using a YouTube Short.
Supervisor: Shahid Alvi
Faculty: Social Science and Humanities
Completed: December 18, 2024

Student: Quinn Daggett
Program: MSc in Computer Science
Thesis Title: Escape the Experiment: A Serious Game for Vaping Education
Supervisor: Bill Kapralos
Faculty: Science
Completed: December 18, 2024

Student: Muhammad Salik Nadeem
Program: MSc in Computer Science
Thesis Title: Hybrid Architecture for Human Action Recognition Using Skeleton Data
Supervisor: Faisal Qureshi
Faculty: Science
Completed: December 19, 2024

Student: Ardeshir Mortezaei
Program: MSc in Forensic Psychology
Thesis Title: Psychopathic Traits and Emotional Coherence Across Physiological, Facial, and Self-Report Responses
Supervisor: Matthew Shane
Faculty: Social Science and Humanities
Completed: December 23, 2024

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☒
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☐

DATE: **January 28, 2025**

FROM: **Faculty of Health Sciences**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Master of Science in Nursing (MScN)**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Terms of Reference, GSC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments" and report them to Academic Council for information.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:
That GSC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Master of Science in Nursing (MScN) program.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The faculty is proposing to:

- remove HLSC 5060G and HLSC 5291G from the elective list for the project stream
- make additional editorial changes to information regarding elective course suggestions

Students may take other Graduate Level (5000-level or cross-listed level) courses available within the Faculty of Health Sciences as their elective. Course offerings and mode of delivery vary per term. A pre-approved electives list is outlined in the Academic Calendar. Students are also eligible to take elective courses at Trent University.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources required.

TRANSITION PLAN:
Effective for May 2025.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 10 September 2024
- ✓ Faculty Council: 2 October 2024
- Graduate Studies Committee (Approval): 28 January 2025
- Academic Council (Information): 25 February 2025

NEXT STEPS:
Pending the approval of GSC, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
Minor Program Adjustment Proposal

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☒
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☐

DATE: **28 January 2025**

FROM: **Faculty of Social Science and Humanities**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Forensic Psychology - Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy – Direct Entry**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with Section III, part d) of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Terms of Reference, GSC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments" and report them to Academic Council for information.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:
That GSC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy (including Direct Entry option) in Forensic Psychology to adjust admissions requirements.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty is proposing to adjust supporting documentation requirements for admissions consideration by eliminating the requirement for a third letter of reference. This change will align the program with most other graduate programs and make application less cumbersome for prospective students.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:
The third reference letter requirement will be removed for applicants seeking admission for 2026. This does not affect current students. Potential new students will be advised via our website, SGPS and the application portal.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources are required.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ Graduate Curriculum Committee: 14 November 2024

- ✓ Faculty Council: 29 November 2024
- Graduate Studies Committee (for approval): 28 January 2025
- Academic Council (for information): 25 February 2025

SGPS has also been consulted and has provided input to facilitate the change in admissions requirements.

NEXT STEPS:

- Pending the approval of GSC, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- Minor Program Adjustment Proposals:
  - Forensic Psychology – MSc
  - Forensic Psychology – PhD
  - Forensic Psychology- PhD – Direct Entry

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☒
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☐

DATE: **January 28, 2025**

FROM: **Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science**

SUBJECT: **Major Program Modification – Master of Engineering (MEng) Nuclear Engineering**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with 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 Engineering (MEng), Nuclear Engineering program.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty is proposing to:

- Require all students to complete:
  - ENGR 5013G - Advanced Engineering Mathematics
  - ENGR 5200G - Programming Methodology and Abstraction for Engineers
  - ENGR 5201G - Engineering Communication and Ethics
  - ENGR 5410G - Project Management for Engineers
- Adjust limits for undergraduate and graduate course selections within the program

- Adjust the credit weighting of the Graduate Research Project (NUCL 5009G) from nine to six credit hours.

The proposed program changes to the MEng Nuclear Engineering program are designed to improve the overall quality of the MEng programs. These courses will provide a range of fundamental knowledge and skills expected for MEng students and will prepare them for program-specific courses. These changes will also enhance students' career opportunities and, thus, be more attractive to students.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No immediate resources required. However, based on enrolment, an additional faculty member will be hired if new course sections are needed to accommodate program enrolment.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:
The new changes will take effect in Fall 2025. Current students will continue on the program map in the 2024-2025 calendar. Any student requiring the nine credit hours will be permitted to take ENGR 5009G in place of the six-credit hour NUCL 5009G. The requirement of the student to present their work will remain.

Communication to students will be made via our FEAS Graduate Office.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 19 September 2024
- ✓ Faculty Council: 28 November 2024
- Graduate Studies Committee (Recommendation): 28 January 2025
- Academic Council (Approval): 25 February 2025

Student representation on the Graduate Program Curriculum Committee reviewed proposed changes.

NEXT STEPS:
Pending the recommendation of USC, this change will be presented to Academic Council for approval. If approved, it will be included in the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- Major Program Modification Proposal
- Course Change: NUCL 5009G

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☒
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☐

DATE: **January 28, 2025**

FROM: **Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science**

SUBJECT: **Major Program Modification – Master of Engineering (MEng) Software Engineering**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with 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 Engineering (MEng) Software Engineering program to adjust course requirements.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The proposed program changes to the MEng Software Engineering program are designed to improve the overall quality of the MEng programs. These courses will provide a range of fundamental knowledge and skills expected for MEng students and will prepare them for program-specific courses. These changes will also enhance students' career opportunities and, thus, be more attractive to students.

The proposed changes include specifying three common core course (with the exception of the programming course) required for all MEng students to make all MEng programs consistent, namely:

- ENGR 5013G - Advanced Engineering Mathematics
- ENGR 5410G - Project Management for Engineers, and

- ENGR 5201G - Engineering Communication and Ethics

The three existing core Software courses (ENGR 5510G, ENGR 5520G and ENGR 5590G) in the Software Engineering MEng program will now appear under “Software Engineering Electives”.

Course-based students will be required to take:

- The three common core courses
- Three courses from “Software Engineering Electives”
- One course from “Software Systems Electives”; and
- Three courses from any category

Project-based students will be required to take:

- Three common core courses;
- Three courses from “Software Engineering Electives”
- One courses from “Software Systems Electives”
- One course from any category and;
- ENGR 5002G - MEng/MEngM Project

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No immediate resources required. However, based on enrolment, an additional faculty member will be hired if new course sections are needed to accommodate program enrolment.

TRANSITION PLAN:

The current program map on the 2024-2025 calendar will remain in effect for all students admitted to the program before Fall 2024. The new program map will take effect in Fall 2025 and will be applied on new students entering the program in Fall 2025.

Communication to students will be made via our FEAS Graduate Office.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 15 February 2024
- ✓ Faculty Council: 29 February 2024
- Graduate Studies Committee (Recommendation): 28 January 2025
- Academic Council (Approval): 25 February 2025

Student representation on the Graduate Program Curriculum Committee reviewed proposed changes.

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the recommendation of GSC, this change will be presented to Academic Council for approval. If approved, it will be included in the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

Major Program Modification Proposal

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☒
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☐

DATE: **28 January 2025**

FROM: **Faculty of Social Science and Humanities**

SUBJECT: **Major Program Modification – Master of Arts in Social Practice and Innovation**

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 Arts in Social Practice and Innovation program to establish a part-time option for the program.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty is proposing formally establish a part-time option to the program.

The Masters of Social Practice and Innovation (MSPI) was created 2022 with the first cohort entering for the 2023/24 academic year. Feedback from current and prospective students revealed that substantial proportion of applicants and enrolled students are attempting to complete the MSPI program alongside full time employment. These students are struggling and would be better served by a part time option. This would allow students to get more out of the coursework and the MRP project than currently possible within the current condensed full time timelines.

This change to the MSPI will help keep the program current and attractive and also aligns with the other graduate programs in FSSH that offer part-time options.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources are required.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATIONPLAN:

Students applying to start the MSPI program in September 2025 will be able to indicate on their application whether they are applying for full time or part time. Current students are all in the full-time program and are anticipated to stay full time so there is no need for a transition plan.

In the event that a currently enrolled student wishes to shift to the part-time option, the GPD and supervisor will discuss with the student their options, considering the availability of courses and making clear that the student will need to be flexible about the availability of courses. There will be little impact on students completing their MRP on a part-time basis. The timing for the completion of the MRP on a part-time basis will be determined in discussions between the supervisor and the student.

Students will be advised through our website, graduate program staff and faculty events. They are also able to apply directly for the part-time option on the OUAC website.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Graduate Curriculum Committee: 20 October 2024
- ✓ Faculty Council: 18 December 2024
- ● Graduate Studies Committee (for recommendation): 28 January 2025
- ● Academic Council (for approval): 25 February 2025

SGPS has been consulted with respect to implementing this change. We have also consulted with faculty teaching in the MSPI program, and MSPI graduate student representatives.

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the recommendation of GSC, this change will be presented for approval to Academic Council. Once approved, it will be included in the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- Major Program Adjustment Proposal