



GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

*Report to Academic Council
at its meeting of April 17, 2018*

FOR ACTION

1. Graduate Academic Regulations – Addition of Indigenous Applicants

The Graduate Studies Committee recommends:

That Academic Council approve the addition of Indigenous Applicants to the Graduate Academic Regulations as proposed in the attached documentation.

Rationale

In response to the recommendation to increase recruitment of Indigenous graduate students, the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies would like to ensure a provision for special consideration for applicants who self-identified as Indigenous to Canada. The practice mirrors that currently in place for non-standard admissions and is consistent with newly developed practice at the undergraduate level. Based on a scan of other university regulations, there are very few documented Indigenous focused graduate admissions practices, which would make UOIT a leader in this area. This would also complement the Indigenous Graduate Scholarship program developed by SGPS in 2017.

Indigenous Applicants

UOIT is dedicated to accessible education and recognizes that Indigenous people make valuable contributions to learning and discovery. An applicant who has self-identified as Indigenous to Canada, who has completed an undergraduate degree, but does not meet the minimum GPA for admission to a graduate diploma or master's program, may be considered for admission by the program and School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies based on additional factors such as the student history, cultural knowledge, work experience, educational goals, and other achievements. For more information, contact gradstudies@uoit.ca.

2. Cyclical Program Review Final Assessment Summary Reports

The Graduate Studies Committee recommends:

That Academic Council approve the summary reports of the graduate program reviews outlined below.

Rationale

In accordance with UOIT's Quality Assurance Framework, the Committee reviewed the 18-month follow-up reports for the following programs that underwent a cyclical review to ensure that they meet provincial quality assurance requirements and to support their ongoing rigour and coherence:

- Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Bioscience
- Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Modelling and Computational Science

The review involves an examination, by both program faculty and staff and external reviewers, of the program's goals and requirements, its curriculum content, structure, modes of delivery, and assessment of

student learning, and its use of available resources to support the program. The work generated a valuable set of documents that reflect a great deal of care and attention to the ongoing development and refinement of the program that best meets the needs of students and best represents the current state of the field of study. The attached reports provide a summary of the outcomes of the recommendations resulting from the program reviews and outlines the agreed-upon implementation plan and progress to date.