

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

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### ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation
- Decision
- Discussion/Direction
- Information

**DATE:** 27 February 2024

**FROM:** Graduate Studies Committee

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

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### 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.

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty proposed to:

- Reduce the number of required courses in the project-based MScN to 8 courses (plus project) from 9 (plus project). This will be accomplished by removing an elective requirement.
- Reduce the number of required courses in the thesis-based MScN to 6 courses (plus thesis course) from 7 courses (plus thesis course).

The program course requirements exceed those of other MScN programs in Ontario and the MHSc programs. This change is consistent with the credits in the MHSc program (30 credits). The students have historically been completing two special topics courses and therefore the change should not impact their ability to meet the program learning outcomes.

This course reduction will better align the program requirements with other master’s programs across the province.

This is a professional practice leadership degree in which Registered Nurses working at all levels of health care are able to obtain a degree with the majority of courses being offered online asynchronous. Decreasing the course load will decrease the workload in a way that will not impact the students’ learning.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

No additional resources required.

**TRANSITION PLAN:**

Students starting in May 2024 will use the new program map.

Current students will be permitted to transition to the new map. Details/procedures are currently in discussion.

**CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:**

- ✓ FHS Curriculum Committee: 8 November 2023
- ✓ Faculty Council: 6 December 2023
- ✓ Graduate Studies Committee (Approval): 23 January 2024
- Academic Council (Information): 27 February 2024

Consultations occurred with the directors of graduate nursing programs in Ontario at COUPN and the Program Advisory Committee from Ontario Tech and Trent and the Deans. The changes align with students' feedback obtained in the MScN Program online survey (Fall 2022).

**NEXT STEPS:**

Following presentation to Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar.

**SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- [Minor Program Adjustment](#)