

## GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

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### ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation**   
**Decision**   
**Discussion/Direction**   
**Information**

**DATE:** 24 September 2024

**FROM:** Faculty of Health Sciences

**SUBJECT:** Major Program Modification – Master of Health Science

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### 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 Health Science program.

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing to:

- Remove the core course HLSC 5010G-Health Research Approaches from the program (all fields)
- Add HLSC 5118G OR HLSC 5123G as core course in the Kinesiology, CPPH, and HI fields.
- Add core courses in the CPPH field: Two of the following:
  - (1) HLSC 5117G (Epidemiology)
  - (2) HLSC 5124 (Public Health) and/or
  - (3) HLSC 5111G (Health Policy) (now known as HLSC 6111G) as core in the CPPH field.
- Reduce the number of elective courses in respective fields:
  - Kinesiology: 3 electives reduced to 2
  - HI: 3 electives reduced to 2
  - CPPH: 3 electives reduced to 1
- Reduce total credit hours in the Kinesiology and HI fields to 27.
- Reduce mandatory attendance in HLSC 5011G (Grad Seminar) from 4 semesters to 2 semesters (in first year).

- Project-based option will no longer be completed as an IND course with a supervisor and will now be offered as a capstone style course with a designated course instructor, resulting in a course-based option.
- Change in mode of delivery for HLSC 5097G from IND to LEC.
- Changes in course codes to 6000-level for cross-listing of 5000 level and 7000 level courses.

The need for these changes was determined by the recent cyclical program review (including external reviewer recommendations), as well as extensive consultation with faculty.

The changes to core and elective courses will better align the program fields with their own field-specific learning outcomes, and with the standards and conventions within each of the respective fields. These changes will also improve the experience of students in the program (particularly those that transition out of the thesis option), reduce redundancy in core course offering content, and better prepare the students for future opportunities.

Given the popularity of course-based master's programs at other institutions, adding a course-based option may increase graduate enrollment in the program.

### **RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

Currently no additional resources required. However, if enrollment for the thesis and course-based option is to grow, additional TA positions will be required to support minimum funding requirements, and TA positions may be needed to support graduate courses.

### **TRANSITION PLAN:**

Fall 2025 for the implementation of the proposed changes.

For all current students in the program (particularly those that start in Fall 2024) there will be the option to transition to the new program degree requirements.

For students entering the second year of their MHSc, this would entail two transitions: HLSC 5010G would be counted as an elective, and HLSC 5011G would not have to be taken a second time (i.e., their graduate seminar attendance will have been fulfilled). This transition plan will be managed with the Faculty of Health Sciences grad program passport system.

### **CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:**

- ✓ FHSc Graduate Curriculum Committee: 7 May 2024
- ✓ Faculty Council: 5 June 2024
- Graduate Studies Committee (for recommendation): 24 September 2024
- Academic Council (for approval): 22 October 2024

Student, staff, and faculty input and support has been received at several points during the cyclical program review process in 2022-2023 (student representative on Internal assessment team, consultation workshops, online surveys). Drafts of proposed changes were discussed at consultation meetings with graduate students.

### **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 Modification Proposal](#)

- Course Change: [HLSC 5010G](#), [HLSC 5011G](#), [HLSC 5030G](#), [HLSC 5097G](#), [HLSC 5117G](#),  
[HLSC 5118G](#), [HLSC 5123G](#), [HLSC 5124G](#), [HLSC 5392G](#), [HLSC 6050G](#), [HLSC 6111G](#),  
[HLSC 6115G](#), [HLSC 6116G](#), [HLSC 6122G](#), [HLSC 6129G](#), [HLSC 6210G](#), [HLSC 6314G](#),  
[HLSC 6320G](#), [HLSC 6322G](#), [HLSC 6323G](#), [HLSC 6325G](#), [HLSC 7012G](#), [HLSC 7111G](#),  
[HLSC 7210G](#), [HLSC 7314G](#)