

# Graduate Programs in the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Review

## Year 3 (2024) - FAR Implementation Report (reviewed 2020/21)

### Recommendation #1

Program requirements should be specific to areas of study suggesting that program governance should be at departmental level rather than through the FAHS [Faculty of Applied Health Sciences] graduate office. Departmental-level program leadership with representation on Graduate Council working in conjunction with the Dean and Associate Deans of Graduate Studies would be a more effective administrative structure.

### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC understands the recommendation to be referring to changes in program governance for the streams within each degree (MA, MSc, PhD) as these programs are not based in Departments. The Committee expects that the FAHS Graduate Committee, in consultation with the Associate Dean, is best-positioned to address how program requirements could become more specific to areas of study and possible changes to program governance. ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

### Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)

Responsible for approving:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Responsible for resources:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Responsible for implementation:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two*	Year Three
<b>Action #1</b> Complete the search and selection of Departmental-level Graduate Program Directors (GPDs) for the research-based Masters Program.	Associate Dean (AD)	C		
<b>Action #2</b> Form Departmental-level Graduate Program Committees to govern the relevant research-based Master-level graduate programs.	Graduate Program Directors (GPDs)	T	C	

\*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

**Comments 2022:**

Between December 2021-February 2022 the AD's office ran searches to fill three new GPD positions for the Departments of Kinesiology, Sport Management and Health Sciences. All searches were successful in that three well-deserving candidates were chosen. The official start date of the GPDs is July 2022, at which time governance of the research-based Master-level graduate program will begin to transition to the departmental level.

As for the Departments of Recreation and Leisure, as well as Nursing, they are working hard to increase their Masters-level research-based enrolment. Once enrolment reaches a critical mass, the AD's office will organize a search for the implementation of these departmental-based GPDs.

**Comments 2023:**

The relevant Graduate Program Committees have been formed.

**Comments 2024:**

These actions are noted as completed in years 1 and 2. The Departments of Recreation and Leisure Studies as well as Nursing continue to work towards building enrolment to a critical mass that will allow them to have departmental-based GPDs.

**Recommendation #2**

Review course credit unit requirements in programs to reflect availability of electives and reduce burden of Directed Study courses. If course credit units remain then offerings for research-masters courses need to be more equally distributed across departments.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Responsible for resources:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Responsible for implementation:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two*	Year Three
<b>Action #1</b> Invite CPI to lead a Curriculum Mapping activity for the Masters research-based graduate program within 2022-2023.	AD	T	C	

<p>Action #2 Work to distribute courses equally across Departments for the Masters research-based program.</p>	<p>AD and GPDs</p>	<p>T</p>	<p>O</p>	
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**Comments 2022:**

The AD’s office is planning on organizing a Curriculum Mapping activity session Spring-Summer 2022. This activity will be critical for mapping course selections and distribution across Departments. From this activity, the AD and GPDs will use the relevant information to move course delivery forward equitably.

**Comments 2023:**

A Curriculum Mapping session was held in collaboration with CPI and included the GPDs and graduate representatives from Recreation & Leisure Studies (RECL) and Nursing (NURS) on August 29, 2022. Much insight was gained from this session. As a result, the AD scheduled several meetings in the fall that included the GPDs, RECL and NURS graduate representatives, as well as Departmental Chairs to discuss workload distribution for 2023. These meetings were used to map out graduate course offerings and workload assignments with the goal of distributing courses more equally across Departments. These meetings will continue on a yearly basis with the goal of offering required graduate courses, an adequate number of graduate electives, as well as ensuring equal distribution of course offerings across Departments.

**Comments 2024:**

The Associate Dean’s office continued to meet annually with GPDs (KINE, HLSC, SPMA), RECL and NURS graduate representatives, as well as Departmental Chairs to discuss workload distribution for 2024. This meeting enables a broad range of course offerings while considering workload assignments, and ultimately supports a goal of distributing courses more equally across Departments. These meetings will continue as this strategy is working well to maintain an appropriate number of graduate electives and an equal distribution of course offerings across Departments.

**Recommendation #3**

Review program course offerings including Directed Study courses to ensure course requirements are balanced with faculty workload.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to review program course offerings to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee recognizes that ensuring that course requirements are balanced with faculty workload lies outside of its jurisdiction and has implications with respect to the Brock University/Faculty Association Collective Agreement.

**Implementation Plan (1st Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Responsible for resources:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Responsible for implementation:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two*	Year Three
<b>Action #1</b> Invite CPI to lead a Curriculum Mapping activity for the Masters research-based graduate program within 2022-2023.	AD	T	C	
<b>Action #2</b> Work to ensure a balanced faculty workload for the Masters research-based graduate program.	AD and GPDs	T	O	

**Comments 2022:**

The AD's office is planning on organizing a Curriculum Mapping activity session Spring-Summer 2022. This activity will be critical for mapping course selections and distribution across Departments. From this activity, the AD and GPDs will use the relevant information to move course delivery forward equitably.

**Comments 2023:**

A Curriculum Mapping session was held in collaboration with CPI and included the GPDs and graduate representatives from Recreation & Leisure Studies (RECL) and Nursing (NURS) on August 29, 2022. Much insight was gained from this session. As a result, the AD scheduled several meetings in the fall that included the GPDs, RECL and NURS graduate representatives, as well as Departmental Chairs to discuss workload distribution for 2023. These meetings were used to map out graduate course offerings and workload assignments with the goal of distributing courses more equally across Departments. These meetings will continue on a yearly basis with the goal of offering required graduate courses, an adequate number of

graduate electives, as well as ensuring equal distribution of course offerings across Departments.

**Comments 2024:**

A yearly meeting with GPDs (KINE, HLSC, SPMA), RECL and NURS graduate representatives as well as Departmental Chairs continues, to help ensure an adequate number of graduate electives are offered and that there is a relatively equal distribution of course offerings across Departments.

**Recommendation #4**

Consider making courses in professional programs available to research-based masters students.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration. The Committee recognizes that a mechanism already exists for students in research-based programs to take elective courses in the professional programs on an ad hoc basis. ARC expects that the Graduate Program Directors, in consultation with the Associate Dean, are best-positioned to determine how to enhance further co-operation between the programs in this respect.

**Implementation Plan (1st Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Responsible for resources:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Responsible for implementation:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two*	Year Three
<p><b>Action #1</b> Meet on a yearly basis to specifically identify the courses within the course-based Master programs (i.e. MPH, MAG and MPK) that are most relevant to the Masters research-based graduate program.</p>	AD and GPDs	T	O	
<p><b>Action #2</b> Work to ensure these courses are open to graduate students enrolled in the Masters research-based graduate program.</p>	AD and GPDs	T	O	

**Comments 2022:**

The AD meets with course-based GPDs monthly and thus has already identified a number of courses that are of interest to the research-based Master students. The course-based GPDs continue to be very open to allowing research-based Master students entry into these courses. This past year, research-based Master students interested in taking these specific courses were all provided permission to enroll.

**Comments 2023:**

The AD continues to meet with course-based GPDs on a monthly basis. The GPDs continue to support the sharing of teaching resources allowing research-based Master students interested in taking these specific courses permission to enroll.

**Comments 2024:**

The comments for 2023 continue to be relevant as the AD continues to meet with course-based GPDs on a monthly basis. The GPDs continue to support the sharing of teaching resources allowing research-based Master students interested in taking these specific courses permission to enroll. There is direct messaging shared with research-based programs and students regarding ability to enroll in specific, relevant courses.

**Recommendation #5**

Review enrollment numbers in courses currently offered, consider minimum enrollment limits and identify sustainability with present faculty complement (e.g., condensed / combined courses with team-teaching).

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

**Implementation Plan (1st Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Responsible for resources:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Responsible for implementation:	FAHS Graduate Committee
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two*	Year Three
Action #1 Invite CPI to lead a Curriculum Mapping activity for the Masters research-based graduate program during the 2022-2023 academic year.	AD	T	C	
Action #2 Implement the relevant action items brought forward from the Curriculum Mapping activity.	AD and GPDs	T	O	

On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

**Comments 2022:**

The AD's office is planning on organizing a Curriculum Mapping activity session Spring-Summer 2022. This activity will be critical for mapping course selections and distribution across departments. From this activity, the AD and GPDs will use the information to move forward regarding course offerings, enrollment numbers, team teaching, hybrid teaching options etc.

**Comments 2023:**

There were several action items brought forward from the Curriculum Mapping activity:

1. Ensure consistency in content taught within courses offered in both D2 and D3.
2. Ensure that prerequisite courses prepare students for supplemental courses. In the same respect, supplemental courses must build on content covered in prerequisite courses.
3. Strategically schedule required and elective courses to maximize enrolment across Master and PhD specializations.
4. Develop a more comprehensive AHSC Seminar Series that would cater to both new Master and PhD students.

In response to the aforementioned action items:

1. 2. & 3. Several meetings with the relevant GPDs, graduate representatives and instructors have occurred over the fall and winter terms. These will continue to occur as course offerings and instructors change.
2. The AHSC Seminar Series for 2022-2023 incorporated a number of new workshops (i.e. library literacy, research ethics, presentation workshop, scientific knowledge translation), in addition to the previous year format of PhD student presentations and guest speakers. The AD is in the process of gathering feedback from students, GPDs and graduate representatives regarding the seminar series and how to continue to improve upon the changes made.

**Comments 2024:**

With the yearly meeting mentioned in the earlier comments, the ADs, GPDs and relevant graduate representatives continue to strategically schedule required and elective courses to maximize enrolment across Master and PhD specializations.

The AHSC Seminar Series for 2023-2024 continued to incorporate some new, additional topics to complement existing content. Examples of these additions include the following: i. expanded library literacy session (changed from one to two sessions to allow more in depth discussion of topics); ii. individual development plan; iii. overview of sex and gender in research; and iv. open science and data management. The AD continues to gather feedback from students and GPDs to continue to align with expressed needs.

**Recommendation #6**

Implement action on Truth and Reconciliation as part of priorities toward a culture of inclusivity, accessibility, reconciliation, and decolonization.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be consistent with current initiatives across the University to move towards a culture of inclusivity, accessibility, reconciliation and decolonization. The Committee understands that a directive to the programs on this issue is not within its jurisdiction while recognizing that support is clearly indicated by all parties.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.