2004-2006 Graduate Calendar

The information published in this Graduate Calendar outlines the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for the 2004-2006 academic years, including the Summer Semester 2005, the Fall Semester 2005 and the Winter Semester 2006.

For your convenience the Graduate Calendar is available in PDF format.

If you wish to link to the Graduate Calendar please refer to the Linking Guidelines.

The University is a full member of:

- The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

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Disclaimer

The Office of Graduate Program Services has attempted to ensure the accuracy of this on-line Graduate Calendar. However, the publication of information in this document does not bind the university to the provision of courses, programs, schedules of studies, fees, or facilities as listed herein.

Limitations

The University of Guelph reserves the right to change without notice any information contained in this calendar, including any rule or regulation pertaining to the standards for admission to, the requirements for the continuation of study in, and the requirements for the granting of degrees or diplomas in any or all of its programs.

The university will not be liable for any interruption in, or cancellation of, any academic activities as set forth in this calendar and related information where such interruption is caused by fire, strike, lock-out, inability to procure materials or trades, restrictive laws or governmental regulations, actions taken by the faculty, staff or students of the university or by others, civil unrest or disobedience, or any other cause of any kind beyond the reasonable control of the university.

The University of Guelph reaffirms section 1 of the Ontario Human Rights Code, 1981, which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, age, marital status or family status.

The university encourages applications from women, aboriginal peoples, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and members of other under-represented groups.

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Plant Agriculture

The MSc and PhD programs in Plant Agriculture offer specialization in the fields of crop management and physiology, crop breeding and genetics and crop biotechnology. Crop management and physiology is adaptation of scientific principles to improve performance of field and horticultural crops in a number of different types of environment. Research areas include closed environment producation systems, plant water relations, plant growth regulations, optimization of yield and qulaity and post harvest physiology and biochemistry, breeding methodology, germplasm development and phytoremediation. Crop breeding and genetics includes techniques to develop or improve germplasm using selection procedures, improvement of methodologies in plant breeding and to develop an understanding of genes at the whole plant level. Students may also focus on plant propagation and plant cell and tissue culture. Crop biotechnology emphasizes the use of molecular biology techniques such as transformation, RFLP and RAPD's to develop novel germplasm and study gene function.

Administrative Staff

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MSc Program

The Department of Plant Agriculture offers an MSc program in the fields of crop management and physiology, crop breeding and genetics and crop biotechnology. Students will conduct basic and/or applied research on topics within these fields.

Admission Requirements

Applicants should have a baccalaureate degree in an honours plant science/biology program, or the equivalent, from a recognized university or college with an average academic standing of at least 'B' during the last two years of full-time study (or equivalent). To assist in identifying a suitable thesis advisor(s), applicants should submit a short statement of research interests. Supportive letters of reference are essential and should outline the applicant's strengths and weaknesses. Students may be admitted into the fall, winter or summer semesters. The University of Guelph requires that applicants from some foreign institutions have an MSc (or equivalent) degree before they are considered for admission to the University of Guelph's MSc program.

Degree Requirements

A program of prescribed courses (at least 1.5 credits of 6000 level courses) and additional courses (if any) is established with the student's advisory committee. All MSc candidates must complete a thesis. Students are required to participate in the Seminar (PLNT*6500) and in one Departmental Colloquium course. In addition, a thesis seminar will be presented in conjunction with the final oral examination and thesis defence. Students are encouraged to participate in the Annual Poster Day sponsored by the Department.

PhD Program

The Department of Plant Agriculture offers a PhD program in the fields of crop management and physiology, crop breeding and genetics and crop biotechnology

Admission Requirements

The usual requirement for admission into the PhD program is a MSc degree by thesis in a field appropriate to their proposed area of specialization with a minimum 'B' average and supportive letters of reference. On rare occasions direct admission to the PhD program

will be permitted to applicants holding an honours baccalaureate degree who have demonstrated extraordinary academic and research capabilities. It is also possible for a student to transfer from the MSc program without completing the requirements for that degree provided the student has an excellent academic record and has demonstrated a strong aptitude for research which can be expanded to the doctoral level. Applicants should submit a statement of research interests, background experiences, and career goals to assist in the identification of a faculty adviser who has the resources necessary to support the thesis research. Students may be admitted into the fall, winter or spring semesters. In some instances (see MSc admission requirements) applicants who already hold an MSc may be required to initially register in the MSc program.)

Transfer from the MSc Program to the PhD Program

Students enrolled in the MSc program who demonstrate exceptional research and academic capabilities may request to be transferred to the PhD program. The request for transfer must be initiated by the student and must be done no sooner than the end of the second semester and no later than the end of the fourth semester.

Degree Requirements

The major emphasis in the PhD program is on research and the preparation of an acceptable thesis. There are no specific course requirements except for the seminar and colloquia as outlined below. However, it is usual for most students, in consultation with their advisory committee, to select prescribed studies and additional courses in preparation for the qualifying examination and thesis research. The qualifying examination is in two parts (written and oral) and evaluates the student's knowledge of their field of specialization and related topics. The qualifying examination will be taken no later than the fifth semester or seventh semester if the student has transferred from the MSc program or has been admitted directly to the PhD program with only a BSc. In addition, the advisory committee is required to submit a written evaluation of the student's performance in research and the student's potential as a researcher. Upon completion of the qualifying examination, the student becomes a candidate for the PhD degree.

Students are required to participate in the Seminar (PLNT*6400). PhD students will complete a second seminar (PLNT*6410) on their thesis research no later than semester 6. In addition, a thesis seminar will be presented in conjunction with the final oral examination and thesis defence. Students are required to participate in two Departmental Colloquium courses offered by the Department. Students are encouraged to participate in the Annual Poster Day sponsored by the Department. The PhD program is completed by the submission and successful defence of an acceptable thesis.

Interdepartmental Programs

Toxicology MSc/PhD Collaborative Program

The Department of Plant Agriculture participates in the MSc/PhD program in toxicology. Please consult the Toxicology listing for a detailed description of the MSc/PhD collaborative program.

Courses

Crop Breeding, Genetics, and Biotechnology

PLNT*6100 Advanced Crop Breeding F [0.25]

The practical application of genetic theory and biological limitations to improving plant populations as germplasm and for cultivar development will be presented and discussed. Sources of variation, selection methods, genotype evaluation and cultivar multiplication will be addressed in lectures and discussions.

PLNT*6120 Protein and Oilseed Crop Breeding F [0.25]

This course will address both theoretical and practical aspects of protein and oilseed crop breeding. Current and emerging breeding methodologies to achieve major agronomic and compositional goals will be examined from the perspective of theoretical, technical and financial efficiencies.

PLNT*6130 Corn Breeding W [0.25]

Principles of corn breeding with emphasis on germplasm enhancement and methods of improving breeding populations as sources of inbred lines for hybrid programs and for direct use as improved varieties

PLNT*6150 Plant Breeding -The Profession W [0.25]

The course will address professional aspects of plant breeding including: legal/regulatory issues, ethical issues related to germplasm, and rights and responsibilities related to intellectual property under UPOV and World Patent Organization conventions.

PLNT*6160 Quantitative Genetic Variation in Crop Populations F [0.25]

Fundamentals of quantitative genetics. Topics will include gene and genotype frequencies, forces affecting equilibrium, small population size, inbreeding, means, variances, covariances and resemblance among relatives. Lecture topics will be expanded through discussion of classic and current papers.

PLNT*6250 Colloquium in Genetics, Biotechnology and Plant Breeding F,W [0.25]

An open discussion course designed to review and critically analyse contemporary issues in plant genetics, biotechnology and breeding.

PLNT*6260 Advanced Crop Genetics W [0.50]

A lecture and discussion course on some of the recent advances in genetics as they pertain to crop improvement. Topics will include: the molecular basis of selected agronomic traits, molecular marker assisted selection, isolation of plant genes and plant transformation systems.

Crop Physiology and Management

PLNT*6010 Physiology of Crop Yield W [0.50]

Physiological and environmental principles as they relate to the growth of crop plants and communities. Plant and environmental characteristics determining transpiration, photosynthesis, leaf growth and reproductive growth and development. Simulation of plant growth.

External Course Code(s): Offered in even years.

PLNT*6110 Postharvest Physiology W [0.50]

Discussion of the physiological effects of controlled and supplemental environments or treatments on horticultural crops. Emphasis is on current problems and research.

External Course Code(s): Offered in odd years.

PLNT*6220 Advanced Studies in Pomology W [0.50]

Discussion of current problems and research on fruit crop production and physiology.

External Course Code(s): Offered in even years

PLNT*6230 Colloquium in Crop Physiology and Management F,W [0.25]

An open discussion and/or workshop course designed to review and critically analyze contemporary issues in crop physiology and management. The fall course is generally devoted to computer simulation of crop growth and development.

PLNT*6240 Colloquium on Weed Management in Agrosystems W [0.25]

An open discussion course designed to review and critically analyze contemporary issues in plant ecology and their relevance to practical weed management systems.

PLNT*6290 Physiological Genetics of Higher Plants F [0.50]

A lecture and discussion course examining classical and molecular genetic investigations for understanding the genetic basis and regulation of physiological processes in plants.

External Course Code(s): Offered in odd years.

PLNT*6490 Colloquium in Physiology of Ornamental Crops F [0.50]

Current topics in the area of floriculture, turfgrass, and woody plant physiology.

External Course Code(s): Offered in even years.

General

PLNT*6020 Issues in Food Safety Risk Analysis S [0.50]

This course is based on the principles of risk analysis - assessment, management and communication - their application to food safety, agricultural biotechnology and food policy development

PLNT*6030 Food Safety Policy W [0.50]

This course will examine the interplay between science, risk, economics and politics that lead to food safety policy development. Students will be introduced to national and international approaches to food safety policy, as well as in-depth case studies. Lectures, readings and resource material will focus on real-life development of food safety policy, drawing on the experience of a number of distinguished lecturers who have participated in a broad range of food safety policy developments.

PLNT*6050 Principles and Application of Plant Tissue Culture F [0.50]

The course involves lecture and discussions of fundamental and applied aspects of plant tissue culture. Topics will include the role of tissue culture in understanding plant development, physiology and genetics, and its commercial applications in horticulture and forestry.

External Course Code(s): Offered in odd years.

PLNT*6170 Statistics in Plant Agriculture W [0.50]

The application of statistical techniques to research in plant agriculture. SAS will be the software used to perform data analysis. Emphasis will be placed on statistical principles, the design of experiments, the testing of hypotheses, and communication of findings to other scientists.

PLNT*6400 Seminar F,W [0.25]

All graduate students present a departmental seminar on their research proposal no later than the second semester. PhD students present an additional seminar on their thesis research before the end of the sixth semester (or the equivalent). Each student is expected to participate in the seminars of colleagues and faculty.

PLNT*6410 Advanced Seminar F-W [0.25]

PhD students present a seminar on their research to date before the end of the sixth semester (or the equivalent). Each student is expected to participate in the seminars of colleagues and faculty.

Prerequisite(s): PLNT*6400

PLNT*6500 Applied Bioinformatics W [0.50]

The goal of this course is to provide an introductory understanding of the databases and methods used in computational molecular biology research. Topics covered will include: reviewing major molecular databases and their structures, constructing sequence alignments, constructing phylogenics, and finding motifs and genes in biological sequences. Lab sessions will include an introduction to Unix and Perl for the biologist and hands-on use of several molecular data analysis programs.

Prerequisite(s): Undergraduate level statistics class (such as STAT*2040 or STAT*2100) and undergraduate level molecular biology class (such as MBG*2020).