

2020-2021 Graduate Calendar

The information published in this Graduate Calendar outlines the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for the 2020-2021 academic year, including the Summer Semester 2020, Fall Semester 2020 and the Winter Semester 2021.

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:

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Disclaimer

The information published in this Graduate Calendar outlines the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for the 2020-2021 academic year, including the Summer Semester 2020, the Fall Semester 2020 and the Winter Semester 2021

The University reserves the right to change without notice any information contained in this calendar, including but not limited to that related to tuition and other fees, standards of admission, course delivery or format, continuation of study, and the offering or requirements for the granting of, degrees or diplomas in any or all of its programs. The publication of this calendar does not bind the University to the provision of courses, programs, schedules of study, or facilities as listed herein.

The University will not be liable for any failure or delay in performance arising out of any cause or causes beyond its reasonable control. Such causes may include but are not limited to fire, strike, lock-out, inability to procure materials or trades, war, mass-casualty event, flood, local, regional or global outbreak of disease or other public health emergency, social distancing or quarantine restriction, legislative or regulatory requirements, unusually severe weather, failure of public utility or common carrier, or attacks or other malicious act, including but not limited to attacks on or through the internet, or any internet service, telecommunications provider or hosting facility.

In March 2020 the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic of the virus leading to COVID-19. The Governments of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and local Governments responded to the pandemic with legislative amendments, controls, orders, by-laws, requests and requirements (collectively, the “Governmental Response”). It is uncertain how long the pandemic, and the related Governmental Response, will continue, and it is unknown whether there may be a resurgence of the virus leading to COVID-19 or any mutation thereof (collectively, the “Virus”) and resulting or supplementary renewed Government Response. Without limiting the foregoing paragraph, the University shall not be liable for costs associated with any failure or delay in performance arising out of:

- a. the continued spread of the Virus;
- b. the continuation of or renewed Governmental Response to control the spread of the Virus; and
- c. a University decision, made on an organization-wide basis and in good faith, to control the spread of the Virus, even if exceeding the then current specific Government Response.

In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings such that courses are offered in whole or in part on an alternate delivery model to in-person classes. Tuition and mandatory fees have been set regardless of the method of instruction and will not be refunded in the event instruction occurs remotely for any part of the academic year.

Dates or times of performance including the Schedule of Dates may be extended as appropriate and the University will notify students promptly of the existence and nature of such delay and shall, so far as practicable, use reasonable efforts to minimize and mitigate any such delay or non-performance.

In the event of a discrepancy between a print version (downloaded) and the Web version, the Web version will apply,

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.

Introduction

Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information

Personal information is collected under the authority of the University of Guelph Act (1964), and in accordance with Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90f31_e.htm. This information is used by University officials in order to carry out their authorized academic and administrative responsibilities and also to establish a relationship for alumni and development purposes. Certain personal information is disclosed to external agencies, including the Ontario Universities Application Centre, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, and Statistics Canada, for statistical and planning purposes, and is disclosed to other individuals or organizations in accordance with the Office of Registrarial Services Departmental Policy on the Release of Student Information. For details on the use and disclosure of this information call the Office of Registrarial Services at the University at (519) 824-4120 or see <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/>

Statistics Canada - Notification of Disclosure

For further information, please see Statistics Canada's web site at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca> and Section XIV Statistics Canada.

Address for University Communication

Depending on the nature and timing of the communication, the University may use one of these addresses to communicate with students. Students are, therefore, responsible for checking all of the following on a regular basis:

Email Address

The University issued email address is considered an official means of communication with the student and will be used for correspondence from the University. Students are responsible for monitoring their University-issued email account regularly.

Home Address

Students are responsible for maintaining a current mailing address with the University. Address changes can be made, in writing, through Registrarial Services.

Name Changes

The University of Guelph is committed to the integrity of its student records, therefore, each student is required to provide either on application for admission or on personal data forms required for registration, their complete, legal name. Any requests to change a name, by means of alteration, deletion, substitution or addition, must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation.

Student Confidentiality and Release of Student Information Policy Excerpt

The University undertakes to protect the privacy of each student and the confidentiality of their record. To this end the University shall refuse to disclose personal information to any person other than the individual to whom the information relates where disclosure would constitute an unjustified invasion of the personal privacy of that person or of any other individual. All members of the University community must respect the confidential nature of the student information which they acquire in the course of their work.

Complete policy at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/secretariat/office-services/university-secretariat/university-policies>.

Learning Outcomes

Graduate Degree Learning Outcomes

On May 27, 2013, the University of Guelph Senate approved the following five University-wide Learning Outcomes as the basis from which to guide the development of graduate degree programs, specializations and courses:

1. Critical and Creative Thinking
2. Literacy
3. Global Understanding
4. Communication
5. Professional and Ethical Behaviour

These learning outcomes are also intended to serve as a framework through which our educational expectations are clear to students and the broader public; and to inform the process of outcomes assessment through the quality assurance process (regular reviews) of programs and departments.

An on-line guide to the learning outcomes, links to the associated skills, and detailed rubrics designed to support the development and assessment of additional program and discipline-specific outcomes, are available for reference on the [Learning Outcomes website](#)

Critical and Creative Thinking

Critical and creative thinking is a concept in which one applies logical principles, after much inquiry and analysis, to solve problems with a high degree of innovation, divergent thinking and risk taking. Those mastering this outcome show evidence of integrating knowledge and applying this knowledge across disciplinary boundaries. Depth and breadth of understanding of disciplines is essential to this outcome. At the graduate level, originality in the application of knowledge (master's) and undertaking of research (doctoral) is expected.

In addition, Critical and Creative Thinking includes, but is not limited to, the following outcomes: Independent Inquiry and Analysis; Problem Solving; Creativity; and Depth and Breadth of Understanding.

Literacy

Literacy is the ability to extract information from a variety of resources, assess the quality and validity of the material, and use it to discover new knowledge. The comfort in using quantitative literacy also exists in this definition, as does using technology effectively and developing visual literacy.

In addition, Literacy includes, but is not limited to, the following outcomes: Information Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Technological Literacy, and Visual Literacy.

Global Understanding

Global understanding encompasses the knowledge of cultural similarities and differences, the context (historical, geographical, political and environmental) from which these arise, and how they are manifest in modern society. Global understanding is exercised as civic engagement, intercultural competence and the ability to understand an academic discipline outside of the domestic context.

In addition, Global Understanding includes, but is not limited to, the following outcomes: Global Understanding, Sense of Historical Development, Civic Knowledge and Engagement, and Intercultural Competence.

Communication

Communication is the ability to interact effectively with a variety of individuals and groups, and convey information successfully in a variety of formats including oral and written communication. Communication also comprises attentiveness and listening, as well as reading comprehension. It includes the ability to communicate and synthesize information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably.

In addition, Communication includes, but is not limited to, the following outcomes: Oral Communication, Written Communication, Reading Comprehension, and Integrative Communication.

Professional and Ethical Behaviour

Professional and ethical behaviour requires the ability to accomplish the tasks at hand with proficient skills in teamwork and leadership, while remembering ethical reasoning behind all decisions. The ability for organizational and time management skills is essential in bringing together all aspects of managing self and others. Academic integrity is central to mastery in this outcome. At the graduate level, intellectual independence is needed for professional and academic development and engagement.

In addition, Professional and Ethical Behaviour includes, but is not limited to, the following outcomes: Teamwork, Ethical Reasoning, Leadership, Personal Organization and Time Management, and Intellectual Independence.

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Plant Agriculture

The MSc and PhD programs in the Department of Plant Agriculture offer specialization in four broad fields of the Plant Sciences: 1) plant breeding and genetics; 2) plant biochemistry and physiology; 3) crop production systems and 4) bioproducts.

- **Plant Breeding and Genetics** has long been a key focus of our faculty and students. Through breeding and biotechnology, Guelph researchers help society by developing new field-crop, fruit, ornamental and vegetable cultivars that are grown in Canada and worldwide. Also, Plant Agriculture faculty and students seek both to understand the fundamental mechanisms that enable plant improvements and to discover novel methodologies and technologies that will be the foundation for future advances.
- **Plant Biochemistry and Physiology** is a broad discipline. Faculty and students in this area study the response of plants to environmental change and plant development at the ecosystem, whole plant, and molecular levels. Students investigate ecologically friendly management strategies, study underlying molecular and biochemical mechanisms that regulate plant development, investigate how plant performance can be optimized in the field or closed environments, and contribute to cultivar development
- **Crop Production Systems** research seeks to develop or test agricultural management strategies for yield improvement and economically and environmentally sound production practices in field and horticultural crops such as ornamentals and turf. Students assist producers and industry in the control of weeds, insects and plant diseases, and investigate new management protocols for production of high quality crops.
- **Bioproducts** is a multi-disciplinary field and will deal with background sciences ranging from chemical engineering to plant science. Students deal with products and materials made from cellulose, oil, protein, starch and other compounds derived from various plant parts such as seeds, stalks/stovers, hulls and cobs of crop plants. Students will develop their expertise in analytical methods, factors affecting quality of plant-derived raw materials, engineering (including bioengineering of bioproducts) biomaterials and biocomposites.

Administrative Staff

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BSc, MSc Guelph, PhD Western Ontario - Associate Professor and Chair

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Christopher L. Gillard

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Lewis N. Lukens

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Eric M. Lyons

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Mary Ruth McDonald

BSc, MSc, PhD Guelph - Professor

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Amar K. Mohanty

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K. Peter Pauls

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Manish N. Raizada

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Associated Graduate Faculty

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MSc Program

The Department of Plant Agriculture offers an MSc program in four broad fields of the Plant Sciences: 1) plant breeding and genetics; 2) plant biochemistry and physiology; 3) crop production systems and 4) bioproducts. Students 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 in the Fall, Winter or Summer semesters. The University of Guelph requires that applicants from some foreign institutions have a MSc (or equivalent) degree before they are considered for admission to the University of Guelph's MSc program.

Program Requirements

A program of prescribed courses (at least 1.50 credits of 6000 level courses) and additional courses is established with the student's advisory committee. All MSc candidates must complete a thesis and present a seminar in conjunction with the final oral examination. Students are required to participate in the Seminar PLNT*6400 and in a Departmental Colloquium course dealing with current topics. Students are expected to participate in Departmental events, with particular emphasis on seminar series.

PhD Program

The Department of Plant Agriculture offers a PhD program in four broad fields of the Plant Sciences: 1) plant breeding and genetics; 2) plant biochemistry and physiology; 3) crop production systems and 4) bioproducts. Students conduct research on topics within these fields.

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. Direct admission to the PhD program is permitted to applicants holding an honours baccalaureate degree and demonstrating extraordinary academic and research capabilities. It is also possible for a student to transfer from the MSc without completing the requirements for that degree if the student has an excellent academic record and has strong research progress that can be expanded to the doctoral level. The request for transfer must be initiated by the student and must be done no earlier than the end of the second semester and no later than the end of the fourth semester. Applicants should submit a statement of research interests, background experiences, and career goals to assist in the identification of an appropriate faculty adviser with the resources necessary to support the thesis research. Students may be admitted in the Fall, Winter or Spring semesters. In some instances, applicants who already hold a MSc may be required to initially register in the MSc program.

Program Requirements

The major emphasis in the PhD program is on research and the preparation and defense of an acceptable thesis. All PhD candidates must complete a thesis and present a seminar in conjunction with the final oral examination. Students are required to participate in the Seminar PLNT*6400 and in a Departmental Colloquium course dealing with current topics. There are no other specific course requirements. It is usual for most students, in consultation with their advisory committee, to select some appropriate 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 is taken no later than the fifth semester. For students who have transferred from the MSc program or have been admitted directly to the PhD program from a BSc, the qualifying examination is taken no later than the seventh semester. 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.

All students are expected to participate in Departmental events, with particular emphasis on seminar series.

Interdepartmental Programs

Bioinformatics MBNF

The Department of Plant Agriculture participates in the Master of Bioinformatics Program. Please consult the Bioinformatics listing for a detailed description of the Master of Bioinformatics

Collaborative Specializations

International Development Studies

The Department of Plant Agriculture participates in the PhD collaborative specialization in International Development Studies (IDS). Please consult the International Development Studies listing for a detailed description of the PhD collaborative specialization.

Toxicology

The Department of Plant Agriculture participates in the masters/doctoral collaborative specialization in toxicology. Please consult the Toxicology listing for a detailed description of the masters/doctoral collaborative specialization.

Courses

Plant Breeding and Genetics

PLNT*6100 Advanced Plant Breeding I W [0.50]
The practical consideration of genetic theory and biological limitations to improving plant populations and developing cultivars are discussed. Current and emerging breeding methodologies and sources of variation used to achieve plant breeding goals are examined through lectures, paper discussion, site visits and invited talks. <i>Department(s):</i> Department of Plant Agriculture
PLNT*6160 Advanced Plant Breeding II W [0.50]
Fundamentals of quantitative genetics. Topics include gene and genotype frequencies means, variances, covariances and resemblance among relatives. Lecture topics are expanded through discussion of classic and current papers. <i>Offering(s):</i> Offered in odd-numbered years. <i>Department(s):</i> Department of Plant Agriculture
PLNT*6250 Colloquium in Plant Genetics and Breeding U [0.25]
An open discussion course designed to review and critically analyse contemporary issues in plant genetics and breeding. <i>Department(s):</i> Department of Plant Agriculture
PLNT*6260 Advanced Plant Genetics I F [0.50]
A lecture and discussion course examining the underlying principles of genetics and the recent advances in plant genetics. Topics include: structure of the genome, experiments to measure and experimentally describe phenotypes, population structures, and molecular basis of inheritance of a phenotype. <i>Department(s):</i> Department of Plant Agriculture
PLNT*6290 Physiological and Developmental Genetics in Plants F [0.50]
A lecture and discussion course examining classical and molecular genetic investigations to understand the genetic basis and regulation of physiological and developmental processes in plants. <i>Offering(s):</i> Offered in even-numbered years. <i>Department(s):</i> Department of Plant Agriculture
PLNT*6340 Plant Breeding F [0.50]
This course examines principles of plant breeding in self- and cross-pollinated crops. Additional topics include crop domestication, mating systems, heritability, gain from selection, disease resistance, polyploidy, marker assisted selection and government regulations. Offered in conjunction with MBG*4160. Extra work is required of graduate students. <i>Restriction(s):</i> Credit may be obtained for only one of MBG*4160 or PLNT*6340 <i>Department(s):</i> Department of Plant Agriculture
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 include: reviewing major molecular databases and their structures, constructing sequence alignments, constructing phylogenies, and finding motifs and genes in biological sequences. Lab sessions include an introduction to Unix and Perl for the biologist and hands-on use of several molecular data analysis programs. <i>Prerequisite(s):</i> MBG*2040, STAT*2040 or STAT*2230 <i>Department(s):</i> Department of Plant Agriculture

Plant Biochemistry and Physiology

PLNT*6010 Physiology of Crop Yield W [0.50]
This course covers factors affecting biomass production and yield, with primary focus on phenomena measured at the whole canopy scale. Yield-limiting abiotic stresses (temperature, water deficit, nutrient deficiency) are considered in detail, as are technical aspects of instrumentation used in crop physiology research. <i>Offering(s):</i> Offered annually. <i>Prerequisite(s):</i> PBIO*3110 <i>Department(s):</i> Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6110 Fruit and Vegetable Technology F [0.50]

The course is primarily intended to address science and technology aspects of fruits and vegetables, with specific reference to storage, packaging, quality, processing, products and ingredients, health regulatory properties and biotechnology issues. Methods of instruction include lectures and seminars. Students are evaluated during their seminar presentations, term papers and participation in discussions.

Offering(s): Offered in even-numbered years.

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6140 Biological and Cultural Control of Plant Diseases W [0.50]

This course explores current concepts and approaches to managing pathogens and diseases in detail but other methods (e.g. genetic resistance) will be presented as well. Offered in conjunction with PBIO*4070. Extra work is required of graduate students.

Offering(s): Offered Annually

Restriction(s): Credit may be obtained for only one of PBIO*4070 or PLNT*6140

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6230 Colloquium in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry U [0.25]

An open discussion course designed to review and critically analyze contemporary issues in plant physiology and biochemistry.

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6320 Metabolic Processes in Crop Plants F [0.50]

A comprehensive examination of the metabolic mechanisms and versatility whereby autotrophic organisms sustain themselves. Emphasis is placed on our current understanding of the regulation and integration of metabolic processes in plants and their physiological and agricultural significance including available research methodologies. Students should have an undergraduate course in biochemistry prior to registering in the course.

Prerequisite(s): BIOC*2580

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6330 Metabolism of Natural Products in Plants W [0.50]

A comprehensive analysis of the metabolism and roles of natural products in plants. Emphasis is placed on the distinction between secondary and primary processes, and the composition, detection, and regulation of the biosynthesis, modification and turnover of natural products. Key research methodologies and the roles of natural products in abiotic and biotic stresses and their effects on human health are discussed.

Offering(s): Offered in even-numbered years.

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

Crop Production Systems**PLNT*6140 Biological and Cultural Control of Plant Diseases W [0.50]**

This course explores current concepts and approaches to managing pathogens and diseases in detail but other methods (e.g. genetic resistance) will be presented as well. Offered in conjunction with PBIO*4070. Extra work is required of graduate students.

Offering(s): Offered Annually

Restriction(s): Credit may be obtained for only one of PBIO*4070 or PLNT*6140

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6210 Herbicide Activity, Modes-of-Action, Selectivity and Resistance F [0.50]

This course provides a comprehensive study of the major herbicide groups. The various herbicide groups will be discussed under the following topics: herbicide uptake and translocation, herbicide mode of action, herbicide selectivity, weeds controlled and crop injury.

Offering(s): Offered in odd-numbered years.

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6240 Colloquium in Crop Production and Management U [0.25]

An open discussion course designed to review and critically analyze contemporary issues in crop production and management.

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6270 Agroecosystem Design and Function F [0.50]

This lecture-based course critically analyzes the agroecosystem in field crop, horticulture, turfgrass and greenhouse industries. Agroecosystem design is considered in relation to key components such as crop rotation and management of soil, nutrient and water supply. The significance of plant function, soil properties, and nutrient and water cycles to agroecosystem design are examined. Metrics of productivity and environmental sustainability serve to focus discussion on agroecosystem optimization.

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6280 Invasive Plant Ecology in Natural and Agricultural Systems W [0.50]

This course focuses on the ecological principles that are important in understanding the potential for a plant species to become invasive. Students are able to use this knowledge to facilitate management of these species under field conditions.

Offering(s): Offered in odd-numbered years.

Prerequisite(s): CROP*4240 or BOT*2100 or BOT*3120

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

General**PLNT*6080 Plant Disease Epidemiology and Management F [0.50]**

Epidemiology and management of plant diseases caused by fungi, viruses, and bacteria.

Offering(s): Offered in even-numbered years.

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6170 Statistics in Plant Agriculture W [0.50]

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

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6400 Seminar F,W [0.25]

All graduate students present a departmental seminar on their research proposal in their second or third semester. Each student is expected to participate in the seminars of colleagues and faculty.

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6450 Plant Agriculture International Field Tour U [0.25]

A field course designed to increase student's knowledge of primary field and animal agricultural production systems, to explore the environmental and political issues related to international agriculture, and to understand the role of agri-business in the rural economy.

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture

PLNT*6800 Special Topics in Plant Science U [0.50]

A study of selected contemporary topics in plant science. Proposed course descriptions are considered by the Department of Plant Agriculture on an ad hoc basis, and the course is offered according to demand.

Department(s): Department of Plant Agriculture