

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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Rural Studies

Rural Studies core faculty are from within the School of Environmental Design & Rural Development (Capacity Development and Extension, Landscape Architecture, Rural Planning and Development).

The program focuses on two fields:

- **Sustainable Rural Communities** Sustainable rural communities are characterized by long-term well-being based on the integration of economic, social and environmental factors in their planning and activities. Four sectors of sustainable rural communities have been designated: environment and sustainability, social structure and processes, human resource development, and sustainable rural economic development.
- **Sustainable Landscape Systems** The sustainable landscape systems field examines structure, process, and change in the rural landscape through research on bio-physical and socio-cultural sectors.

A number of different disciplines are represented and an interdisciplinary approach is taken to integrate across subject areas. Students may choose among fields and choose a sector within the field for relatively more-intensive study.

Administrative Staff

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PhD Program

The PhD program is offered in the following fields: 1) sustainable rural communities; and 2) sustainable landscape systems. The objective of the program in Rural Studies is to provide opportunities for advanced studies and research on the integration of socio-cultural and bio-physical components for capacity development, design, or planning of landscape systems and rural communities. Graduates are prepared to become leading specialists in addressing sustainable landscapes and rural communities issues. Interdisciplinary research is emphasized, building on the disciplines of capacity development and extension, landscape architecture, and rural planning and development within SEDRD.

Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission, an applicant must have a master's degree (or the equivalent) from a recognized university in a relevant discipline. Master's graduates in a range of humanities, social-science and applied-science disciplines are eligible for consideration for admission. As examples, master's graduates in geography, sociology, planning, landscape architecture, environmental science, capacity development and extension, and international development may be particularly suitable. Applicants who have not completed courses relevant to rural studies or gained experience in rural communities may be required to do so prior to admission or as part of initial phases of the PhD program.

The program's admission policy is governed by the availability of graduate advisors and other resources and by the need to admit applicants from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds. The interaction of students with diverse backgrounds greatly enhances the interdisciplinary approaches in the program. The program also seeks to achieve the significant participation of women and Indigenous Peoples from North America and international students. The Graduate Program Coordinator receives applications directly from prospective students or through prospective advisors and ensures that application files are complete for review by the admission committee. The committee then consults with prospective advisors and recommends applicants for admission to the Office of Graduate Studies. Applicants should consult the coordinator for the deadline for admission.

Program Requirements

Advisory Committee

Each doctoral student has an Advisory Committee composed of faculty members from a range of disciplines pertinent to the field, specialization and research topic. Each committee consists of at least three members. Committees are broadly based with at least two major disciplines represented by its members. The Advisor and the Advisory Committee provide guidance to allow for the student's intellectual growth in the program

The Advisory Committee assesses and approves the thesis-research proposal, which is to be prepared by the student by the end of the second year and upon completion of the qualifying examination.

Course Requirements

The minimum course and credit requirements for the PhD in Rural Studies consist of a common 2.0-credit core of two integrative 1.0-credit courses (Sustainable Rural Systems, and Integrative Research Methods), a 0.25-credit Research Seminar, and one elective graduate 0.5-credit course or the RST*6500 Special Topics course. Additional courses may be required by the student's Advisory Committee. Make-up courses may be required prior to admission to the PhD program or early in the program. All courses will normally be completed prior to the qualifying examination. All or most of the courses should be taken in the first year of study.

To foster the interdisciplinary nature of the program, some courses are team taught. Attention is also paid to the sequencing of courses to promote interdisciplinarity.

Qualifying Examination

The qualifying examination for the PhD program in Rural Studies assesses the acceptability of the intellectual capability and research potential of students. The examination committee is constituted to represent a range of disciplines pertinent to the field.

The qualifying examination is used to determine if the student has an advanced level of knowledge and competence in the area(s) of specialization related to their research. The areas of specialization typically focus on one of the program fields; however, it is acceptable to have an area of specialization outside of these fields as long as it is agreed upon by the graduate student, Graduate Program Coordinator, and the Advisory Committee. The qualifying examination has both written and oral components. The written component is based on the common core subject area of the field and the student's selected sector. The oral examination is devoted to discussion of the written materials. The examination evaluates the student's ability to integrate disciplinary knowledge within the field and to undertake interdisciplinary research. The qualifying examination must be completed by the end of semester five.

Courses

Common Core Courses

RST*6000 Sustainable Rural Systems F-W [1.00]
Sustainable development theory in the rural communities and environment context. <i>Department(s):</i> School of Environmental Design and Rural Development
RST*6100 Integrative Research Methods F-W [1.00]
Research design and evaluation with a focus on measures of sustainability and on interdisciplinary applications. <i>Department(s):</i> School of Environmental Design and Rural Development
RST*6300 Research Seminar U [0.25]
<i>Department(s):</i> School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

Sector Core Courses

RST*6500 Special Topics U [0.50]
<i>Department(s):</i> School of Environmental Design and Rural Development