



AGENDA

**College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
Graduate Faculty Council Meeting**
Thursday, May 28, 2026 | 3:00 – 4:30 pm
ARTS 241

Attendance & Participation

- Meetings are held in-person. Zoom access is available by request only— please contact cgps.gov@usask.ca if you require remote access due to illness or prearranged accommodation.
- Graduate Chairs, if you are unable to attend, please appoint a delegate to ensure quorum and program representation is maintained.
- Upon arrival, please check in with CGPS staff. Your attendance will be recorded

Voting Procedures

- Voting will be conducted by a show of hands for in-person attendees. Online participants will vote using the chat function in Zoom.
- Some programs have multiple graduate chairs, but only one vote is permitted per program. Please determine your voting representative prior to the meeting.

Meeting Materials

- All meeting documents will be posted on the [CGPS Faculty Council website](#).
- Members will receive a notification approximately one week prior to each meeting when materials are ready for review.

Refreshments will be provided starting at 2:45 PM

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

KELLY CLEMENT MEMORIAL AWARD 3:00 – 3:10

Marc Usunier will award this year’s Kelly Clement Memorial Employee Service Award. This award recognizes the outstanding contributions of USask staff members to USask's graduate student community.

DECISION ITEMS 3:10 – 3:30

1. Approval of the agenda

Motion: Graduate Faculty Council approves the May 28, 2026, agenda as circulated.

2. Approval of the minutes

Motion: Graduate Faculty Council approves the March 26, 2026, minutes as circulated.

APPENDIX 1

3. Interdisciplinary Committee Terms of Reference (M. Sârghie)

Motion: That CGPS Faculty Council approves the updates to the Terms of Reference for the Interdisciplinary Committee (Sârghie /McIntyre)

APPENDIX 2



4. Slate of nominations for CGPS committee fulfillment 2026-27 (L. McIntyre) APPENDIX 3

Motion: That the recommended slate of CGPS Graduate Faculty Council Standing Committee membership in Appendix 3 recommended by the Nominations Committee be approved as presented (McIntyre/Singh)

5. Thesis/Dissertation requirements (J. Singh) APPENDIX 4

Motion 1: CGPS Faculty Council approves the changes to policy section 4.5. *Project and Thesis Requirements* (Forbes/Quinlan)

Motion 2: CGPS Faculty Council approves the new policy section 4.6. *Styles, forms, content, formatting and required elements of the Thesis/Dissertation* (Forbes/Quinlan)

REPORTS & UPDATES 3:30 - 4:20 PM

6. Interdisciplinary Studies Committee update (Chair, M. Sarghie)

7. Professional Development update and IDP Testimonial (K. Blair, A. Martin)

8. Graduate Students' Association report

9. Society for Postdoctoral Scholars update (N. Goluguri)

10. Dean's report (D. Burshtyn)

APPENDIX 5

11. Announcements

FOR INFORMATION

12. Convocation E-Vote Results

APPENDIX 6

13. Thesis Awards Results

APPENDIX 7

14. Questions

15. Adjournment



Minutes

College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2026 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

W. P. Thompson (Biology) 106

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Present: Amira Abdelrasoul, Shafiq Alam, Peter Alward, Leonzo Barreno, Paul Charles Bazin Webster, Kenneth Belcher, Kristin Bett, David Blackburn, Debby Burshtyn (chair) Samantha Carley, Susan Detmer, Ehab Diab, David Elwood, Cameron Forbes, Nancy Gyurcsik, Benjamin Hoy, Emily Jenkins, Timothy Kang (del), George Katselis, Cody Koloski, Marquerite Koole, Zhi Li, Ann Martin, Monique Mayer, Laureen McIntyre, Lori McKee, Mohammad Miah, Stephan Milosavljevic, Pierre-Francois Noppen, Matthew Paige, Steven Prime, Michelle Prytula, Louise Racine, Steven Rayan, Jim Robson, Palash Roy, Edmond Sanganyado (del), Monica Sarghie, Yolande Seddon, Joshua Shaw (del), Alexey Shevyakov, Jaswant Singh, Amaranta Sokol (del), Chris Soteris, Vicki Squires, Katherine Stewart, Glenn Stuart, Takuji Tanaka (del), Karim Tharani, Helen Vandenberg (del), Laila Valila, Lynn Weber, Yangdou Wei, Tyler Wenzel, Chris Willenborg, Joyce Wilson, Craig Wilson, FangXiang Wu, Jing Xiao, Yang Yang. **Non-voting:** Julissa Castillo, Nathan Cupid, Alison Draude, Leah Johnson, Katy Mckenzie, Carolyn Pytlyk, Gwen Rose, Kayla Schwartz, Chelsea Smith (council support), Marc Usunier

Regrets: Britney Bergermann, Veronica Campanucci, Roy Dobson, Maud Ferrari, Smita Garg, Rama Gokaraju, Markus Hecker, Soo Kim, Randy Kutcher, Lynn Lemisko, Wanda Martin, Alex Moewes, Ibronke Odumosu-Ayanu, Daniela Pita de Melo, Mike Scott, David Zhang.

Land Acknowledgement

DECISION ITEMS 3:00 - 3:20 PM**1. Approval of the agenda**

Motion: Graduate Faculty Council approves the March 26, 2026, agenda as circulated.

Sarghie/Blackburn – CARRIED unanimously



2. **Approval of the minutes**

APPENDIX 1

Motion: Graduate Faculty Council approves the January 22, 2026, minutes as circulated.
Koloski/Valila – CARRIED unanimously

3. **Approval of policy revisions** (J. Singh)

APPENDIX 2

Motion: Graduate Faculty Council approves the proposed revisions to the policies 4.2. Progress Reports, 4.3.1. Time in Program Extensions, 4.4.5. Transfer from Master’s Program to PhD Program, 8.5. Oral Examination of the Master’s Thesis, 21.1-4., Course and Program Proposals, 21.7. Cotutelle Programs

Wilson/Quinlan – CARRIED (1 abstention, Tim Kang)

The proposal was summarized, noting that the revisions proposed are to update policies and procedures to align with current practices and to fill gaps in existing policy.

NOTICE OF MOTION 3:20 - 3:30 PM

4. Thesis/Dissertation requirements (J. Singh)

APPENDIX 3

Proposed changes to Policy 4.5. Project and Thesis Requirements and new policy 4.6 Styles, forms, content, formatting and required elements of the thesis/dissertation

Proposed changes were summarized and highlighted for council members:

- The changes introduce research creation, required elements in thesis/dissertation (currently in the GradHub), GenAI declaration, required vs optional elements of the thesis/dissertation. It was noted that templates will not be included in policy but will be posted for student use and updated as needed

No discussion from floor

REPORTS & UPDATES 3:30 - 4:20 PM

5. Graduate Programs Committee update (Chair, Laureen McIntyre)

Update provided regarding the various items reviewed and approved by the committee, including new programs, program revisions, admission change, new courses, and courses changes and deletions. The committee chair provided a snapshot of the proposals approved by the committee from September 2025 to February 2026.

Discussion:

- Course challenge process and approval processes: A committee report is provided to council once per year and CGPS is considering how new programs and program changes could be brought to council in the future.

6. Nominations Committee update (Chair, Laureen McIntyre)

Information provided about the process to self nominate to sit on a CGPS committee. For those interesting in Awards, it was noted that the work is spread out across subcommittee. CGPS committee membership is considered University level governance.

7. TOEFL Scoring update (M. Usunier)

APPENDIX 4

Update provided on the revised scores provided by TOEFL, which were effective starting January 2026. It was noted that TOEFL will be providing both the old and new scores for the next two years. Programs with higher than minimum requirement for English proficiency have been adjusted to the new scale and will be updated in the catalogue along with the release of the admission requirements in the catalogue (June 2026).



8. Graduate Students' Association report (P. Roy)

- Winter 2026 GSA/CGPS Needs-Based Bursary had a record number of applications, with 41 students awarded. Noted that grad students are requiring more support – GSA is looking at increasing the number of bursaries provided.
- Upcoming tax seminar aimed at international students (how to file)
- Senior leadership attended the February GSA council meeting
- GSA is engaged with the UPlan and is working on providing feedback
- Highlighted ongoing work being done by the GSA including the childcare plan and spring/summer bus passes
- Current work: Nominations open for GSA executive, planning the GSA gala, meeting with SK government
- Palash's last meeting as GSA president.

9. Society for Postdoctoral Scholars update (M. Miah)

- Last meeting as Interim Managing Director
- Attendance at postdoc meetings has been good.
- Spring travel award call is being distributed in April – submission to be reviewed by an adjudication committee and awarded to six people.
- Call for new executive members – encourage postdocs to nominate themselves

10. Dean's verbal report (D. Burshtyn)

Dean Burshtyn provided updates on several upcoming events and highlighted the Indigenous cousins network growth, the *ohpahotân* report, grad recruitment events, the grad viewbook, TedX talks, the 3MT, tuition town hall and the new contract for grad students to access Beyond Grad School.

Please see the CGPS newsletter and [college calendar](#) for lists of events, awards, application deadlines and calls for applications.

11. Announcements

Dean Burshtyn reminded units to reach out if additional funding is needed to meet the new minimum funding guarantee and provided updates on various competitions/awards and admissions to date.

12. Questions

- Impact+ Training award update provided
- PhD study permit processing times – CGPS will have more information in April

13. Adjournment – McIntyre 3:53 PM

Governance Proposal Executive Summary

ITEM

Agenda Item Title: Interdisciplinary Committee Terms of Reference	
Motions: That CGPS Faculty Council approves the updates to the Terms of Reference for the Interdisciplinary Committee (Sarghie/McIntyre)	
Proposed by: Interdisciplinary Committee	Presented by: Monica Sarghie
Action: <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Approval	

DETAILS

Office of Administration	College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Final Approval Body	CGPS Faculty Council
Recommended By	Interdisciplinary Committee
Purpose of the Proposal	To update the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee terms of reference to reflect current university structures, terminology and procedures. To clarify and update the roles and eligibility of committee members.
Strategic and Policy Alignment	Policy 19. CGPS Governance; CGPS strategic plan goal 10
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing terms of reference require that the Interdisciplinary Committee shall be widely representative of CGPS. Revised added language clarifies that the six CGPS faculty members should be “from diverse academic units of the university (avoiding concentration on specific areas and ensuring that no more than one representative per academic unit is appointed)”. Updated terminology and practices: the “College Decolonization Resource appointed by the Dean” is replaced with the “Indigenous Engagement Coordinator appointed by the Dean”. The status of this position has also been updated to a voting member. Rather than relying solely on an EDI Resource appointed by the Dean, the proposed ToR emphasize the responsibility of all committee members to be familiar with the USask EDI framework for action and to conduct their committee activity consistent with the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. The requirement that committee members should be “experienced in [the] administration of graduate programs” has been removed. Furthermore, the phrase “experienced in the supervision of students” has been updated to “have experience with graduate supervision or serving on advisory committees or as examiners” of students engaged in interdisciplinary research, scholarly and artistic work. This supports the goal of reducing barriers for faculty involvement.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new terms of reference add flexibility such as the selection of vice-chair “as needed” and the “possibility of renewal” for the student member representative.• Other minor clean-up and language clarifications were included. For example, references to annually nominated “new members” now read “new (i.e., non-continuing) members”, as members are typically nominated for 3-year appointments.
Consultation and Approval Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interdisciplinary Committee (consultation and approval)• Nominations committee chair (consultation)• CGPS Faculty Council (approval)
Implementation	July 1, 2026
Attachments	Terms of reference side-by-side mark up

Interdisciplinary Committee

Proposed Changes to Terms of Reference (ToR)

The Terms of Reference for the membership in the InterD committee can be found in the section 19.2 – Standing Committees of CGPS Faculty Council: <https://cgps.usask.ca/policy-and-procedure/governance-membership/faculty-council.php>

Existing Policy (Section 19.2) – InterD ToR ↓	Proposed Changes with Mark-Up ↓	Proposed Changes Clean ↓
<p>The Interdisciplinary Committee is a Standing Committee of CGPS Faculty Council. New members will be nominated annually by the Nominations Committee and shall be widely representative of the College and experienced in the supervision of students engaged in interdisciplinary research, scholarly and artistic work, and administration of graduate programs.</p> <p>Membership Voting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Interdisciplinary Studies (Chair) (Ex Officio) who serves as the designate of the dean; • Six (6) CGPS faculty members; 	<p>The Interdisciplinary Committee (InterD) is a Standing Committee of CGPS Faculty Council. New (i.e., non-continuing) members will be nominated annually by the Nominations Committee. and They shall be widely representative of the College and experienced in the supervision have experience with graduate supervision or serving on advisory committees or as examiners of students engaged in interdisciplinary research, scholarly and artistic work, and administration of graduate programs.</p> <p>Membership Voting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Interdisciplinary Studies (Chair) (Ex Officio) who serves as the designate of the dean; • Six (6) CGPS faculty members from diverse academic units of the university (avoiding concentration on specific areas, and ensuring that no more than one representative per academic unit is 	<p>The Interdisciplinary Committee (InterD) is a Standing Committee of CGPS Faculty Council. New (i.e., non-continuing) members will be nominated annually by the Nominations Committee. They shall be widely representative of the College and have experience with graduate supervision or serving on advisory committees or as examiners of students engaged in interdisciplinary research, scholarly and artistic work.</p> <p>Membership Voting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Interdisciplinary Studies (Chair) (Ex Officio) who serves as the designate of the Dean; • Six (6) CGPS faculty members from diverse academic units of the university (avoiding concentration on specific areas, and ensuring that no more than one representative per academic unit is

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vice-chair shall be selected annually by the committee from the faculty membership of the committee; • One (1) student from the Interdisciplinary Studies program elected annually <p>Non-voting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary Studies Program Coordinator • College EDI Resource appointed by the Dean • College Decolonization Resource appointed by the Dean <p>Responsibilities To develop and maintain the Interdisciplinary Studies graduate program, which facilitates individualized interdisciplinary studies for graduate students at the MA, MSc, and PhD levels. This role includes developing admissions criteria, reviewing applications to the program, forming student advisory committees, recommending students for scholarships and other funding, monitoring student progress, and organizing activities that enrich and enhance the experiences of students in the program;</p>	<p>appointed);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vice-chair shall be selected annually (or as needed) by the committee from the faculty membership of the committee; • One (1) student from the Interdisciplinary Studies program elected annually (with the possibility of renewal) • Indigenous Engagement Coordinator appointed by the Dean. <p>Non-voting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary Studies Program Coordinator • College EDI Resource appointed by the Dean, as needed • College Decolonization Resource appointed by the Dean <p>Responsibilities To develop and maintain the Interdisciplinary Studies graduate program, which facilitates individualized interdisciplinary studies for graduate students at the MA, MSc, and PhD levels. This role includes developing admissions criteria, reviewing applications to the program, forming assessing student advisory committees, recommending students for scholarships and other funding, monitoring student progress, and organizing activities that enrich and enhance the experiences of students in the program;</p>	<p>appointed);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vice-chair shall be selected annually (or as needed) by the committee from the faculty membership of the committee; • One (1) student from the Interdisciplinary Studies program elected annually (with the possibility of renewal) • Indigenous Engagement Coordinator appointed by the Dean. <p>Non-voting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary Studies Program Coordinator • College EDI Resource appointed by the Dean, as needed <p>Responsibilities To develop and maintain the Interdisciplinary Studies graduate program, which facilitates individualized interdisciplinary studies for graduate students at the MA, MSc, and PhD levels. This role includes developing admissions criteria, reviewing applications to the program, assessing student advisory committees, recommending students for scholarships and other funding, monitoring student progress, and organizing activities that enrich and enhance the experiences of students in the program;</p>
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<p>To foster liaison and cooperation among academic and administrative units involved in graduate interdisciplinary activity; To promote interdisciplinary research, scholarly, and artistic work at the University, which includes hosting lectures, workshops, symposia, panel sessions, and other events that facilitate and increase recognition for interdisciplinarity; To review its own terms of reference as necessary and recommend changes to be approved by CGPS Faculty Council.</p> <p>Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings are conducted in accordance with the CGPS Faculty Council Standing Committee Regulations. <p>Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee will provide an annual general report to CGPS Faculty Council with respect to its activities and decisions. 	<p>To advance InterD efforts and opportunities, foster liaison and cooperation among academic and administrative units involved in graduate interdisciplinary activity; To promote interdisciplinary research, scholarly, and artistic work at the University, which includes hosting lectures, workshops, symposia, panel sessions, and other events that facilitate and increase recognition for interdisciplinarity; To review its own terms of reference as necessary and recommend changes to be approved by CGPS Faculty Council.</p> <p>InterD committee members are expected to be familiar with the USask EDI framework for action and to conduct their committee activity consistent with the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion.</p> <p>Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings are conducted in accordance with the CGPS Faculty Council Standing Committee Regulations. <p>Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee will provide an annual general report to CGPS Faculty Council with respect to its activities and decisions. 	<p>To advance InterD efforts and opportunities, foster liaison and cooperation among academic and administrative units involved in graduate interdisciplinary activity; To promote interdisciplinary research, scholarly, and artistic work at the University, which includes hosting lectures, workshops, symposia, panel sessions, and other events that facilitate and increase recognition for interdisciplinarity; To review its own terms of reference as necessary and recommend changes to be approved by CGPS Faculty Council.</p> <p>InterD committee members are expected to be familiar with the USask EDI framework for action and to conduct their committee activity consistent with the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion.</p> <p>Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings are conducted in accordance with the CGPS Faculty Council Standing Committee Regulations. <p>Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee will provide an annual general report to CGPS Faculty Council with respect to its activities and decisions.
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Governance Proposal Executive Summary

ITEM

Agenda Item Title: Approval of the 2026-27 committee membership roster
Motions: That the recommended slate of CGPS Graduate Faculty Council Standing Committee membership in Appendix 3 recommended by the Nominations Committee be approved as presented (McIntyre/Singh)
Presented by: Laureen McIntyre, Nominations Committee Chair
Action: <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Approval

DETAILS

Office of Administration	College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Final Approval Body	CGPS Faculty Council
Recommended By	Nominations Committee
Purpose of the Proposal	To confirm the slate of nominations to fill vacancies on CGPS faculty council and standing committees of council
Summary	<p>On March 17, 2026, the annual committee recruitment campaign was launched, during which committee members actively identified and encouraged individuals to self-nominate as part of the process. Nominations closed on April 13th at noon.</p> <p>The Executive & Coordination Committee as part of their duties made the following recommendation of membership to the Nominations Committee:</p> <p>Motion: “That Eriq Lukong be recommended for membership on the Nominations Committee for a three-year term effective July 1, 2026, and recommends that Laureen McIntyre continue as the chair of Nominations Committee.” (Singh/Sarghie – CARRIED, 1 abstention)</p> <p>On April 22, 2026, the Nominations Committee deliberated on filling a total of 21 expected vacancies for various positions with CGPS Graduate Faculty Council and its seven standing committees. A total of 18 new committee members are being recommended by the nominations committee for the 2026-27 cycle.</p>
Implementation	July 1, 2026
Attachments	Slate of Nominations 2026-27 for Council Approval

SLATE OF NOMINATIONS 2026-27 FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL MAY 28, 2026			
Appointed members		*chair ** vice-chair	
Executive Committee (chairs of standing committee)			
Executive Committee (chairs of standing committee)	Membership	Home Unit	Term Ends
Executive & Coordinating Committee Associate Dean, CGPS	Jaswant SINGH **		continuing
Executive & Coordinating Committee Dean, CGPS	Debby BURSHTYN *		continuing
Executive & Coordinating Committee GAAC Chair	George KATSELIS		continuing
Executive & Coordinating Committee Awards Chair	George KATSELIS		continuing
Executive & Coordinating Committee InterD Chair	Monica SARGHIE		continuing
Executive & Coordinating Committee PDF Chair	Steve MILOSAVLJEVIC		continuing
Executive & Coordinating Committee Nominations Chair	Lauren MCINTYRE		continuing
Executive & Coordinating Committee GPC Chair	Lauren MCINTYRE		continuing
Executive & Coordinating Committee Indigenous Student rep	TBD - GSA Election		NEW
Executive & Coordinating Committee GSA President	TBD - GSA Election		NEW
Executive & Coordinating Committee SPS Rep	Naga Goluguri		NEW
Nominations			
Nominations	Membership	Home Unit	Term Ends
Nominations	Lauren MCINTYRE *	Ed Pysch & Special Education	2027
Nominations	Chris ZHANG	Mechanical Engineering	2027
Nominations	Paul JONES	School of Environment & Sustainability	2028
Nominations	Dinesh DADARWAL	Large Animal Sciences	2028
Nominations Assoc. Dean	Jaswant SINGH	Assoc. Dean, CGPS	continuing
Nominations Dean	Debby BURSHTYN	Dean, CGPS	continuing
Nominations	Eriqe LUKONG	Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	2029
Awards & Scholarships			
Awards & Scholarships	Membership	Home Unit	Term Ends
Awards Committee	Bill BILIGETU (NSERC)	Plant Sciences	2027
Awards Committee	Fang Xiang WU (NSERC)	Mechanical Engineering	2027
Awards Committee	Neeraj DHAR (NSERC)	VIDO	2027
Awards Committee	Kirsten FISHER, POLS (SSRHC)	Political Studies	2028
Awards Committee	Peter ROBINSON (SSHRC)	English	2028
Awards Committee	Stella SPRIET, LLCS (SSHRC)	Languages, Literature and Culture	2028
Awards Committee	George KATSELIS, MED (CIHR) *	Medicine	2028
Awards Committee	Wanda MARTIN (CIHR)	Nursing	2028
Awards Committee	Angelica LANG (CIHR)	Medicine	2028
Awards Committee	Reza FOTOUHI (NSERC)	Mechanical Engineering	2029
Awards Committee	Richard EVITTS (NSERC)	Chem & Biol Engineering	2029
Awards Committee GSA Rep	TBD - GSA Election	GSA	2027
Graduate Academic Affairs			
Graduate Academic Affairs	Membership	Home Unit	Term Ends
Graduate Academic Affairs	Debby BURSHTYN *	Dean, CGPS	continuing
Graduate Academic Affairs	Jaswant SINGH	Associate Dean, CGPS	continuing
Graduate Academic Affairs	Joyce WILSON	Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology	2028
Graduate Academic Affairs	Lynn LEMISKO	Ed Foundations	2027
Graduate Academic Affairs	Cameron FORBES	Art and Art History	2028
Graduate Academic Affairs	Valery CHIRKOV	Psychology & Health Studies	2028
Graduate Academic Affairs	Shelley PEACOCK (on leave 2026-27)	Nursing	2028
Graduate Academic Affairs	Rama GOKARAJU	Electrical & Computer Engineering	2029
Graduate Academic Affairs GSA rep	TBD - GSA Election	GSA Rep	2027
Graduate Academic Affairs Indigenous Student rep	TBD - GSA Election	Indigenous student rep	2027
Graduate Academic Affairs EDI resource	To be filled		2029
Graduate Programs			
Graduate Programs	Membership	Home Unit	Term Ends
Graduate Programs	Wanda MARTIN	Nursing	2028
Graduate Programs	Debajyoti MONDAL	Computer Science	2028
Graduate Programs	Lauren MCINTYRE*	Ed Psych & Special Education	2027
Graduate Programs	Ahmed MOSTAFA	Pathology	2028
Graduate Programs	Jonathan NORTON	Medicine	2028
Graduate Programs - Dean's Designate	Jaswant SINGH	Assoc. Dean, CGPS	continuing
Graduate Programs	Ann MARTIN	English	2029
Graduate Programs	Maud FERRARI	Veterinary Biomedical Sciences	2029
Graduate Programs	To be filled		2028
Graduate Programs - GSA Rep	TBD - GSA Election	GSA	2027
Postdoctoral Advisory			
Postdoctoral Advisory	Membership	Home Unit	Term Ends
Postdoctoral Advisory - Dean's Designate	Jaswant SINGH	Dean's Designate	continuing
Postdoctoral Advisory	Steve MILOSAVLJEVIC *	School of Rehabilitation Science	2027
Postdoctoral Advisory	Tyler WENZEL	Psychiatry	2028
Postdoctoral Advisory	Meena SAKHARKAR	Pharmacy	2027
Postdoctoral Advisory	Erika DYCK	History	2027
Postdoctoral Advisory - VPR Designate	Meghna RAMASWAMY	VPR Designate	continuing
Postdoctoral Advisory	Eric PRICE	Chemistry	2029
Postdoctoral Advisory - SPS Rep	Naga Goluguri	Postdoc appointed annually by SPS	2027
Postdoctoral Advisory - Postdoc Rep	TBD - SPS	Postdoc appointed annually by SPS	2027
Inter-Disciplinary			
Inter-Disciplinary	Membership	Home Unit	Term Ends
Inter-Disciplinary	Cynthia WALLACE	English	2028
Inter-Disciplinary	Azita HADDADI	Pharmacy	2027

Inter-Disciplinary	Dean CHAMBERLAIN	Oncology	2027
Inter-Disciplinary	Monica SARGHIE *	InterD Director (Deans Designate)	2028
Inter-Disciplinary	Mirela David	Edwards	2028
Inter-Disciplinary	Nathaniel OSGOOD	Computer Science	2028
Inter-Disciplinary	Aurora WOLFE	CGPS Indigenous Coordinator	continuing
Inter-Disciplinary	Clint WESTMAN	Anthropology	2029
Inter-Disciplinary - InterD Student Rep	TBD	InterD student appointed by committee/students	2027
Graduate Faculty Council	Membership	Home Unit	Term Ends
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) Assoc. Dean	Jaswant SINGH **	Assoc. Dean, CGPS	continuing
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) Dean	Debby BURSHTYN *	Dean, CGPS	continuing
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC)	Yang YANG	JSGS (SAB 2025)	2028
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC)	Marguerite KOOLE	Curriculum Studies	2028
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC)	Rama GOKARAJU	Electrical & Computer Engineering	2029
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC)	Kristina BIDWELL	English	2029
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC)	Valery CHIRKOV	Psychology & Health Studies	2028
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC)	Michelle GAGNON	Psychology & Health Studies	2027
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC)	To be filled		2027
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC)	To be filled		2029
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) GSA president	TBD - GSA Election	GSA	2027
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) GSA Indigenous	TBD - GSA Election	GSA	2027
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) GSA Vice President Academic	TBD - GSA Election	GSA	2027
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) Grad Student	Marley DUCKETT	Interdisciplinary Studies	2027
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) Grad Student	Nikolas RINFRET-LAMARRE	Curriculum Studies	2027
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) Grad Student	Sherzodbek KHAMDAMOV	Chemical Engineering	2027
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) Grad Student	Angelica (Angie) UY	Public Health	2027
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) Grad Student	Tamela MARTELL	Education Administration	2027
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) Grad Administrator non-voting	Shahrima TAHSIN	AgBio	2028
Graduate & Postdoctoral Council (GPC) Grad Administrator non-voting	Carolyn PYTLYK	SENS	2027

Governance Proposal Executive Summary

ITEM

Agenda Item Title: Thesis/Dissertation requirements	
Motions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CGPS Faculty Council approves the changes to policy section 4.5. Project and Thesis Requirements CGPS Faculty Council approves the new policy section 4.6. Styles, forms, content, formatting and required elements of the Thesis/Dissertation (Forbes/Quinlan) 	
Proposed by: J. Singh	Presented by: J. Singh
Action: <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Approval	

DETAILS

Office of Administration	College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Final Approval Body	CGPS Faculty Council
Recommended By	CGPS / Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Purpose of the Proposal	To revise existing policy to align with current and emerging needs of students and provide clear guidance for project and thesis requirements
Strategic and Policy Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CGPS Policy and Procedures Manual Strategic Plan 2018-2025 - Goal 3 & 4: Commit to improved and equitable systems, policies, processes & service standards
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporating new CGPS competencies framework into the design of Theses & Dissertations Addition of a new section (4.6. and subsections) in policy to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Styles, forms, content, formatting, including requirements for preface Required elements of the thesis/dissertation Research creation thesis/dissertation in fine- and performing- arts Language, copyright, permission to use and disclaimers Use of Generative artificial intelligence
Consultation and Approval Pathway	<p>Graduate Academic Affairs Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For discussion and feedback - 2025-26, Nov 19, 2025 For discussion and review – 2025-26, Dec 17, 2025 Revisions - 2025-26, Jan 14, 2026 Approval – March 18, 2026



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Email: grad.studies@usask.ca

	CGPS Faculty Council <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion and feedback Jan 22, 2026• Notice of Motion – March 26, 2026• Approval – May 28, 2026
Implementation	September 1, 2026 for all students submitting to the ETD (electronic theses and dissertation archive) site
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy revisions – 4.5. and *new* 4.6.• Templates and Samples for student use

Red indicates changes from current policy

Current Policy	Proposed revised language	Proposed clean version
4.5. PROJECT AND THESIS REQUIREMENTS	4.5. PROJECT AND THESIS AND DISSERTATION REQUIREMENTS	4.5. THESIS AND DISSERTATION REQUIREMENTS
	<p>The master's thesis is an opportunity to explore a topic of particular interest and advance research or scholarship in the discipline, area of professional competence, or research creation. The thesis must demonstrate a capacity to critically evaluate current research and show originality in the application of knowledge or communicate complex ideas coherently.</p> <p>The Ph.D. dissertation must demonstrate original research, advanced scholarship, generation of new knowledge, or competence and innovation through arts project/s. The dissertation must exhibit high level of quality to satisfy peer review and to merit publication in disciplinary appropriate forms. Dissertations must provide adequate evidence of conceptualization, design, and implementation of research or scholarship for the generation of new knowledge, applications, or understanding at the forefront of the chosen research field or across multiple disciplines and make informed judgments on complex issues in specialist field, sometimes requiring new methods and ethically</p>	<p>The master's thesis is an opportunity to explore a topic of particular interest and advance research or scholarship in the discipline, area of professional competence, or research creation. The thesis must demonstrate a capacity to critically evaluate current research and show originality in the application of knowledge or communicate complex ideas coherently.</p> <p>The Ph.D. dissertation must demonstrate original research, advanced scholarship, generation of new knowledge, or competence and innovation through arts project/s. The dissertation must exhibit high level of quality to satisfy peer review and to merit publication in disciplinary appropriate forms. Dissertations must provide adequate evidence of conceptualization, design, and implementation of research or scholarship for the generation of new knowledge, applications, or understanding at the forefront of the chosen research field or across multiple disciplines and make informed judgments on complex issues in specialist field,</p>

<p>The adequacy of the project or thesis is decided by an examining committee consisting of the Supervisor, other members of the Advisory Committee and other persons as appropriate. The thesis, project or publishable paper presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deal in an academically satisfactory way with a definite topic related to the major research field 2. Demonstrate ability on the part of the candidate to do independent study and investigation 3. Be written in good scholarly style and conform to the requirements of a style manual approved by the academic unit 4. Comply in presentation features with specifications of the CGPS. Regulations regarding the preparation, submission, and examination of Master's and Ph.D. theses are published in the Catalogue. 	<p>designed research.</p> <p>The adequacy of the master's project or master's project or Ph.D. dissertation is decided by an examining committee consisting of the Supervisor, other members of the Advisory Committee and other persons as appropriate. The thesis, dissertation project or publishable paper dissertation project or publishable paper presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deal in an academically satisfactory way with a definite defined topic related to the major research, professional practice field, or research creation 2. Demonstrate ability on the part of the candidate to do independent study and investigation study and inquiry 3. Be written in good scholarly disciplinary appropriate style and conform to satisfy the requirements of a style manual approved by the academic unit. 4. Comply in presentation features with specifications of the CGPS- policies, rRegulations and procedures regarding the preparation, submission, and examination of the M the master's thesis and Ph.D. theses dissertation. are- published in the Catalogue. 	<p>sometimes requiring new methods and ethically designed research.</p> <p>The adequacy of the master's thesis or Ph.D. dissertation is decided by an examining committee consisting of the Supervisor, other members of the Advisory Committee and other persons as appropriate. The thesis or dissertation presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deal in an academically satisfactory way with a defined topic related to the major research, professional practice field, or research creation 2. Demonstrate ability on the part of the candidate to do independent inquiry 3. Be written in disciplinary appropriate style and satisfy the requirements of a style manual approved by the academic unit. 4. Comply with specifications of CGPS policies, regulations and procedures regarding the preparation, submission, and examination of the master's thesis and Ph.D. dissertation.
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<p>A Ph.D. thesis, based upon original investigation, must demonstrate mature scholarship and critical judgment on the part of the candidate, as well as familiarity with tools and methods of research in the candidate's chosen research field.</p> <p>Theses may be produced in either the traditional style or the 'manuscript' style, which consists of a manuscript, or cohesive series of manuscripts, written in a style suitable for publication in appropriate venues</p> <p>Issues of copyright must be addressed should one or more of the manuscripts be accepted for publication or already in print.</p> <p>All Master's thesis students and Ph.D. students are required to submit their thesis or dissertation in electronic form.</p>	<p>A Ph.D. thesis, based upon original investigation, must demonstrate mature scholarship and critical judgment on the part of the candidate, as well as familiarity with tools and methods of research in the candidate's chosen research field.</p> <p>Theses may be produced in either the traditional style or the 'manuscript' style, which consists of a manuscript, or cohesive series of manuscripts, written in a style suitable for publication in appropriate venues</p> <p>A thesis or dissertation must include a preface section including a title page, copyright information, abstract, permission to use, declaration regarding the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and table of contents. Issues of copyright must be addressed should one or more of the manuscripts be accepted for publication or already in print. Refer to Section 17 for intellectual property and copyright details.</p> <p>All Master's thesis students and PhD students are required to must submit their thesis or dissertation in electronic digital form. The digital form of document will be held in the USask library and Theses Canada repositories. The final thesis/dissertation document submitted to CGPS is intended to be open-source public document once it is posted and may not restrict</p>	<p>A thesis or dissertation must include a preface section including a title page, copyright information, abstract, permission to use, declaration regarding the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and table of contents. Issues of copyright must be addressed should one or more of the manuscripts be accepted for publication or already in print. Refer to Section 17 for intellectual property and copyright details.</p> <p>All master's thesis students and PhD students are required to submit their thesis or dissertation in digital form. The digital form of document will be held in the USask library and Theses Canada repositories. The final</p>
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<p>Provision can be made for restricting access to a completed thesis for one year, with the possibility of up to two, one-year extensions. Access may be restricted completely, or allowable for only on-campus use.</p>	<p>the reading and examination of the content.</p> <p>Provision can be made for restricting access to a completed thesis/dissertation for one year, with the possibility of up to two, one-year extensions. Restrictions beyond three years will be considered by the Dean, CGPS on a case-by-case basis. Access may be restricted completely only under very exceptional circumstances or made allowable for only on-campus use.</p> <p><i>Requirements for non-PhD doctoral study are under consultation.</i></p>	<p>thesis/dissertation document submitted to CGPS is intended to be open-source public document once it is posted and may not restrict the reading and examination of the content.</p> <p>Provision can be made for restricting access to a completed thesis/dissertation for one year, with the possibility of up to two, one-year extensions. Restrictions beyond three years will be considered by the Dean, CGPS on a case-by-case basis. Access may be restricted completely only under very exceptional circumstances or made allowable for only on-campus use.</p> <p><i>Requirements for non-PhD doctoral study are under consultation.</i></p>
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NEW SECTION

4.6. Styles, forms, content, formatting and required elements of the thesis/dissertation

A master's thesis or Ph.D. dissertation may be produced in any of the following styles:

1. A traditional style thesis/dissertation typically consists of distinct chapters such as introduction, literature review, objectives, methodologies, results and discussion and one set of references at the end.
2. A manuscript style thesis/dissertation is a document consisting of one or cohesive series of manuscripts, written in a style suitable for publication in appropriate venues. A manuscript-style thesis is not, however, merely a collection of published or publishable papers. It must meet the principles and objectives required of a thesis/dissertation and include an introductory chapter, and a final chapter / general discussion to tie the manuscripts together. The manuscripts may or may not be identical to the published papers.
3. A research-creation (practice-based research, arts-based research) thesis/dissertation combines creative and academic research practices to support the generation of new knowledge, competence and innovation. It may employ a variety of art forms (such as audio, music, performance, visual art, or artifact-based display) and typically includes an explanatory document to demonstrate research design, methodology, results and discussion appropriate to the disciplines involved or to the interdisciplinary approach taken.

The format and style of a master's thesis and doctoral dissertation may differ by department, and by discipline. The student's academic unit will identify an acceptable style and format for the thesis/dissertation and communicate it to students. The selected style must be maintained throughout the document.

Advisory committees will discuss and approve the focus of the thesis/dissertation at the proposal stage including the number of manuscript chapters (in case of manuscript style thesis or dissertation) or the scope of scholarly work (in case of research-creation style thesis or dissertation). The focus may be modified by agreement of the committee as the research progresses; any revisions must be approved by the supervisor and advisory committee.

4.6.1. Language

The official language of USask is English and all theses/dissertations are expected to be written in English. The thesis or dissertation can be written in other language in cases where the language of assessment is approved in the program requirements (e.g. MA in French or Cree). If the language of the thesis or dissertation is other than English, required sections of the preface (including the abstract) in English language must be included. The preface section in the original language can also be included.

4.6.2. Copyright and permission to use

The author holds the copyright to the thesis/dissertation and grants permission to the USask Library, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the Academic Unit to provide access to the document. Creative Commons attributes for copyright and permission to use are permitted. Authors should consider potential implications for published scientific papers or future publications.

The thesis/dissertation must indicate in the preface and on the first page of the chapter when copyrighted and/or co-authored material such as, but not limited to, figures, survey inventories or computer code have been

included in the document either “with permission” or “under license”. Any payment which might be required by the rights holder(s) is the responsibility of the student. Copies of the letters of permission or licenses must be available upon request and may be included within the thesis as appendices.

4.6.3. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Academic programs determine whether and how GenAI may be used by graduate students and provide information and guidelines to the students on the uses of GenAI that are permitted or not permitted for master’s and doctoral research or scholarly activity and thesis/dissertation writing. Use of large language models for autonomous content generation and scientific exploration (including but not limited to search, design, outline, draft, write code, analyze data, write, or generate images or other content types) and for editorial purposes through standalone software or as embedded components in the word processing software will be considered use of GenAI and must be declared. Common word processing editorial functions such as spelling corrections, hyphenation, word/syntax/grammar suggestions, reference management are considered as use of artificial intelligence, and such use is permitted and need not be declared unless the academic unit policy prohibits such assistance from humans and/or technologies or requires specific forms of assistance be declared.

Student author and co-authors (in the case of manuscript style thesis/dissertation) must confirm the originality of scholarly contributions and human accountability of work presented in the thesis/dissertation. Large language models do not satisfy the authorship criteria. The writer should not cite a source unless they have read the source and should exercise caution in the use of GenAI to avoid infringement of copyright or other intellectual property protections.

A GenAI declaration must be included in the preface section regardless of whether GenAI was used or not. Methodological details regarding the use and purpose of GenAI must be included in the appropriate sections of the thesis or dissertation. Search histories, prompts used, and other details may be provided in appendices, if appropriate. Students must ensure that any data provided to a GenAI tools does not contravene compliance with any of the [Data Management Policy of the University of Saskatchewan](#), the [University of Saskatchewan Human Research Ethics Policy](#), and any conditions of the ethics approvals.

4.6.4. Formatting

All pages in the document must be numbered. Preface section is numbered in lower-case roman numerals (example: i, ii, iii, iv, ...). Page number is not printed on the title page. Pages for the chapters and appendices are numbered sequentially in natural numbers (example: 1, 2, 3, ...).

Accepted rules of grammar must be followed, and forms of spelling and punctuation must be used with consistency.

When previously published or submitted manuscripts are included as chapters, they must match the formatting standard of the thesis or dissertation, including but not limited to numbering of tables and figures. Previously published manuscripts must be assigned page numbers that are sequential within the document and must not be inserted into the document as copies of journal pages (reprints). For jointly authored manuscript/s, chapter title page should have the thesis/dissertation writer and other co-authors contributions stated in detail (for example but not limited to: conceptualization, creation, data curation, formal/statistical analysis, funding acquisition, investigation, methodology, project administration, resources, supervision, visualization, writing – original draft, writing -review and editing).

Reference and citation styles differ between disciplines and departments, but a single and consistent style must be used throughout the document. References can either be listed as chapter-by-chapter or be presented in a single list at the end of the thesis or dissertation. If the chapter-by-chapter approach is adopted, each chapter, including chapters that are not manuscripts (such as the introduction and concluding chapters), require a list of references. If a single list appears at the end of the thesis, all references cited in the chapters must be included in the list.

4.6.5. Preface Section

The preface section of the thesis or dissertation is mandatory and must include a title page, abstract, permission to use and copyright information, a declaration about the use of GenAI, and a table of content/outline. The preface section may also include additional optional items such as disclaimers, acknowledgment page, dedication page, keywords, list of abbreviations, list of tables and figures.

Description of Required and Optional Elements in the Preface Section

Field	Required/ Optional	Description
Title	Required on title page	Title of the thesis/dissertation including subtitle. Use sentence-style and do not add a period at the end. Do not capitalize the first letter of each word. Separate the main title from the subtitle with space, colon, space (:)
Lay Title	Required on title page	A lay title written in simple language for the general public or non-experts is included in parentheses after the original title. (This title may be used at Convocation)
Creator / author	Required on title page	The creator is the author of the thesis/dissertation. Enter the name in inverse (example: Doe, Jane Sheila)
Degree	Required on title page	Name of the degree associated with the thesis/dissertation. Separate abbreviations more than a single letter by a space (example: Ph. D. and M.Sc.)
Degree discipline	Required on title page	Area of study or concentration
Academic unit	Required on title page	Name of the department or college / school in case of non-departmentalized units
College	Required on title page	College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Degree grantor	Required on title page	University of Saskatchewan
Year	Required on title page	Only the year is mandatory in YYYY format and may be combined with copyright information. If month and day are present, they should be in the format YYYY-MM-DD.
Copyright information	Required on title page	A brief statement on the title page. Example: Copyright (or copyright symbol ©) author last name, first name, initials followed typically by the year of publication. Creative Commons attributes for copyright information are also permitted (for example, CC-BY-NC-ND or similar). The author should consider potential implications for published scientific papers or future

		publications.
Permission to use	Required as a separate page	<p>A separate page must be included in the preface section to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> grant the USask Library the right to provide access to your document for inspection allow USask designated persons to grant access for copying the thesis/dissertation for scholarly purposes state that any use of the thesis/dissertation for financial gain requires the author's written permission indicate that the author and USask receive recognition in any scholarly use of the work, and indicate the statement serves as a reminder to readers that the author holds the copyright and may or may not permit the reproduction.
Declaration of use of copyrighted material	Conditionally required in preface	The thesis/dissertation must indicate when copyrighted and/or co-authored material such as, but not limited to, figures, survey inventories or computer code have been included in the document either "with permission" or "under license" in the preface or on the first page of the chapter.
Declaration of use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) technologies	Required as a separate page	<p>A separate page must be included in the preface section to address the use of generative artificial intelligence technologies.</p> <p>If GenAI was not used in preparation of the thesis or dissertation, the following statement must be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No generative artificial intelligence technology was used in the preparation of this thesis or dissertation. <p>When GenAI technology is used for autonomous content generation and scientific exploration including but not limited to search, design, outline, draft, write code, analyze data, write, or generate images or other content types, a section listing the following must be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of the technology, type of use and scale/extent of use. If GenAI is used for multiple purposes, each use must be listed separately. A statement confirming that issues related to bias, inaccuracy and imagination were considered and addressed and that the author of the thesis or dissertation is solely responsible for maintaining the accuracy and academic integrity of the document That the supervisor(s), co-authors and advisory committee members are aware of the use and limitations of the technology for the stated purpose/s No GenAI technology other than the listed above was used in the preparation of this thesis or dissertation. A statement that data provided to the GenAI tools did not contravene compliance with any of the USask data management policies and ethics approvals were obtained for data use, if applicable. A statement that methodological details of GenAI use are provided in appropriate sections in the document

Abstract	Required as a separate page	The abstract should identify clearly and succinctly the purpose of the research, the methods used, the results obtained, and their significance. A maximum of 500 words is permitted for the abstract. A graphical abstract may be included (optional). If the language of the thesis/dissertation is other than English, an English language abstract must be included in addition to the original language abstract.
Disclaimers	Conditionally required as a separate page	The disclaimer statement is required when proprietary brand names are used in the thesis/dissertation. Disclaimers (whole or in part) such as the following may be included in the thesis/dissertation. Any modifications of this statement must be approved by the supervisor/s and the graduate chair of the academic unit. Disclaimer: The [name of company/corporation/brand name and website] were exclusively created to meet the thesis/dissertation and/or exhibition requirements for the degree of [title of degree] at the University of Saskatchewan. Reference in this thesis/dissertation to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favouring by the University of Saskatchewan. The views and opinions of the author expressed herein do not state or reflect those of the University of Saskatchewan and will not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.
Table of Contents	Required as a separate page	The table of contents must list page references for all numbered elements of the thesis/dissertation and indicate chapters, sections, and important subdivisions of each chapter.
Acknowledgement page	Optional	Inclusion of acknowledgement is at the discretion of the author and may include guidance received from the supervisor/s and advisory committee members, financial assistance received for stipend and to carry out the project and any extraordinary assistance received. Acknowledgment should typically be less than 250 words. The acknowledgement page may be added following approval of the thesis/dissertation.
Dedication page	Optional	Inclusion of dedication is permitted. The dedication may be added following approval of the thesis/dissertation.
Keywords	Optional	Keywords or phrases or search terms may be included as a separate page or at the end of abstract
List of Abbreviations	Optional	An alphabetical list of abbreviations used in the entire document may be included
List of Tables	Optional	Sequential list of table titles and page numbers from all chapters may be included
List of Figures	Optional	Sequential list of figures and page numbers from all chapters may be included

THESIS AND DISSERTATION REQUIRMENTS

TEMPLATES AND SAMPLES FOR STUDENT USE

(Phrases in blue color font are instructions and intended to be deleted)

[Update the text inside the square parentheses and delete the enclosing brackets]

Link to [USask-approved Learning Technology Ecosystem \(LTE\) tools](#) (for information) – includes approved GenAI tools

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Updated January 27, 2026

SAMPLE TITLE PAGE (Required)

Masters' thesis:

[Title of the Thesis]

([Lay-person Title inside round Parentheses])

Examples :

Improving Cognitive Assessment in the Context of Rural Dementia Diagnosis (Improving how memory and thinking abilities are measured in rural-dwelling patients suspected of having memory loss)

Virus-Host Interactions of Positive Sense RNA Viruses: Insights from SARS-CoV-2 and Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (Understanding how viruses and human/animal bodies interact to cause and combat infections)

The microbiome and the reproductive ecology of *Dermacentor variabilis* and *Dermacentor andersoni* in western Canada (This research explored how two tick species survive and reproduce on the Canadian prairies and what bacteria they carry. These insights help to understand their impact on public health)

Thesis Submitted to the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for the Degree of Master of Science In the [Department or Academic Unit], University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon By [Student's Full Name]

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SAMPLE TITLE PAGE (Required)

PhD dissertation:

[Title of the Dissertation]

([Lay-person Title inside round Parentheses])

Examples :

Improving Cognitive Assessment in the Context of Rural Dementia Diagnosis (Improving how memory and thinking abilities are measured in rural-dwelling patients suspected of having memory loss)

Virus-Host Interactions of Positive Sense RNA Viruses: Insights from SARS-CoV-2 and Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (Understanding how viruses and human/animal bodies interact to cause and combat infections)

The microbiome and the reproductive ecology of Dermacentor variabilis and Dermacentor andersoni in western Canada (This research explored how two tick species survive and reproduce on the Canadian prairies and what bacteria they carry. These insights help to understand their impact on public health)

Dissertation Submitted to the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy In the [Department] University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon By [Student's Full Name]

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(Required)

Permission to Use and Copyright statement

Following section statement may be reproduced as such or modified with the approval of the supervisor/s and the graduate chair of the academic unit:

In presenting this thesis/dissertation in partial fulfillment of the requirements for [name of the degree] from the University of Saskatchewan, I agree that the Libraries of this University may make it freely available for inspection. I, [name], am the sole holder of the copyright to scholarly and research work presented herein [alternate language for Creative Commons attributes: I allow the reproduction of the document under Creative Commons license {name the type; for example, CC-BY-NC-ND}]. It is understood that any copying or publication or use of this thesis/dissertation or parts thereof for financial gain shall not be allowed without my written permission. It is also understood that due recognition shall be given to me and to the University of Saskatchewan in any scholarly use which may be made of any material in my thesis/dissertation. I agree that permission for copying of this thesis/dissertation in any manner, in whole or in part, for scholarly purposes may be granted by the professor or professors who supervised my thesis/dissertation work or, in their absence, by the Head of the department/academic unit or the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Requests for permission to copy or to make other uses of materials in this thesis/dissertation in whole or part for scholarly purpose should be addressed to:

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[street address]
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan [postal code] Canada

OR

Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
University of Saskatchewan
116 Thorvaldson Building, 110 Science Place
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 5C9 Canada

If appropriate, the following statement regarding intellectual property and inventions may be included in this section if the thesis/dissertation contains confidential or proprietary material.

The data presented in this thesis/dissertation are the subject of intellectual property protection that are governed by the confidentiality and intellectual property policies of the University of Saskatchewan

(Required)

Declaration of use of Generative Artificial Intelligence technologies

Select one of the following paragraphs:

I, (author's full name), affirm that artificial intelligence or generative artificial intelligence technologies were not used in the preparation of this M.Sc. thesis / Ph. D. dissertation [choose one] for any purpose.

Or

I (author's full name), affirm that the artificial intelligence or generative artificial intelligence tools (include in parentheses the name/s of software or AI tools) were used to support writing tasks including grammar refinement, wording suggestions (modify and include the complete list of writing tasks for which AI or Gen AI was used) during the preparation of this M.Sc. thesis / Ph. D. dissertation [choose one]. Generative artificial intelligence tools were not used for autonomous content generation and scientific exploration including but not limited to search, summarize, design, outline, draft, generate computer code, analyze data, write, or generate images or other content types. All analyses, interpretations and final decisions are entirely my own and I take full responsibility for the content.

Or

I, (author's full name), affirm that the artificial intelligence or generative artificial intelligence tools (include in parentheses the name/s of software or AI tools) were used (or were not used) to support writing tasks including grammar refinement, wording suggestions (modify and include the complete list of writing tasks for which AI or Gen AI was used) during the preparation of this M.Sc. thesis / Ph. D. dissertation [choose one]. Except for the purposes described below, generative artificial intelligence tools were not used for autonomous content generation and scientific exploration including but not limited to search, summarize, design, outline, draft, generate computer code, analyze data, write, or generate images or other content types (or modifying the list to suit the use). All analyses, interpretations and final decisions are entirely my own and I take full responsibility for the content. Following generative artificial intelligence tools were used during the preparation of this M.Sc. thesis / Ph. D. dissertation (choose one):

- ____ (name of the software or tool) _____ was used for ____ (list the purpose) ____ to create/generate ____ (scale / extent of use) ____ in Chapter ____ (note: If generative AI is used in multiple chapters, each use must be listed separately) ____.
- Repeat the above statement for every generative artificial intelligence technology used.

I confirm that issues related to bias, inaccuracy and imagination by the above listed technologies were considered and addressed. My supervisor(s), co-authors and advisory committee members have approved the use of the listed generative artificial intelligence tools and I am aware of limitations of the technology for the stated purpose/s. I affirm that the data provided to the generative artificial intelligence tools did not contravene compliance with any of the University of Saskatchewan data management policies and appropriate ethics approvals were obtained. I am solely responsible for maintaining the accuracy and academic integrity of the document. Methodological details of use of above listed generative AI use are provided in appropriate chapters in the thesis / dissertation (choose one)

Or

I, (author's full name), affirm that ____ (use the wording approved by the academic unit) ____.

(Required)

Abstract

(The abstract should identify clearly and succinctly the purpose of the research, the methods used, the results obtained and the significance of the results or findings. A maximum of 500 words is required for the abstract. A graphical abstract may also be included (optional).

If the language of the thesis/dissertation is other than English, an English language abstract must be included in addition to the original language of the abstract).

Keywords: (Optional)

(Keywords or phrases or search terms may be included at the end of abstract or as a sperate page. Arrange the keywords in alphabetical order)

(Conditionally Required)

Disclaimer

(The disclaimer statement is required when proprietary brand names are used in the thesis/dissertation. Disclaimers (whole or in part) such as the following may be included in the thesis/dissertation. Any modifications must be approved by the supervisor/s and the graduate chair of the academic unit.)

The [name of company/corporation/brand name and website] were exclusively created to meet the thesis/dissertation and/or exhibition requirements for the degree of [title of degree] at the University of Saskatchewan. Reference in this thesis/dissertation to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favouring by the University of Saskatchewan. The views and opinions of the author expressed herein do not state or reflect those of the University of Saskatchewan and will not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.

(Optional - may be added before or following the thesis/dissertation approval)

Acknowledgements

(Inclusion of acknowledgement is at the discretion of the author and may include guidance received from the supervisor/s and advisory committee members, financial assistance received for stipend and to carry out the project and any extraordinary assistance received. Acknowledgment should typically be less than 250 words.)

(Optional - may be added before or following the thesis/dissertation approval)

Dedication

(Inclusion of a dedication page is permitted)

(Required)

Table of Contents

(The table of contents must list page references for all numbered elements of the thesis/dissertation and indicate chapters, sections, and important subdivisions of each chapter.)

Chapter/ Subheading	Title	Page #
[1]	[First chapter's title]	[??]
[1.1]	[First section's title]	[??]

(...and so forth. This is an example only, Actual form and formatting can be different. A Table can from the word processing application and hyperlinks to heading and subheading can be used.)

(Optional)

List of Abbreviations

(An alphabetical list of abbreviations used in the entire document may be included)

Abbreviation	Full Form
[???	[???? ?????]

(...and so forth. This is an example only, Actual form and formatting can be different. A Table can from the word processing application can be used.)

(Optional)

List of Tables

(Sequential list of table titles and page numbers from all chapters may be included)

Table #	Title of the table	Page #
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(Optional)

List of Figures

(Sequential list of table titles and page numbers from all chapters may be included)

Figure #	Title of the figure	Page #
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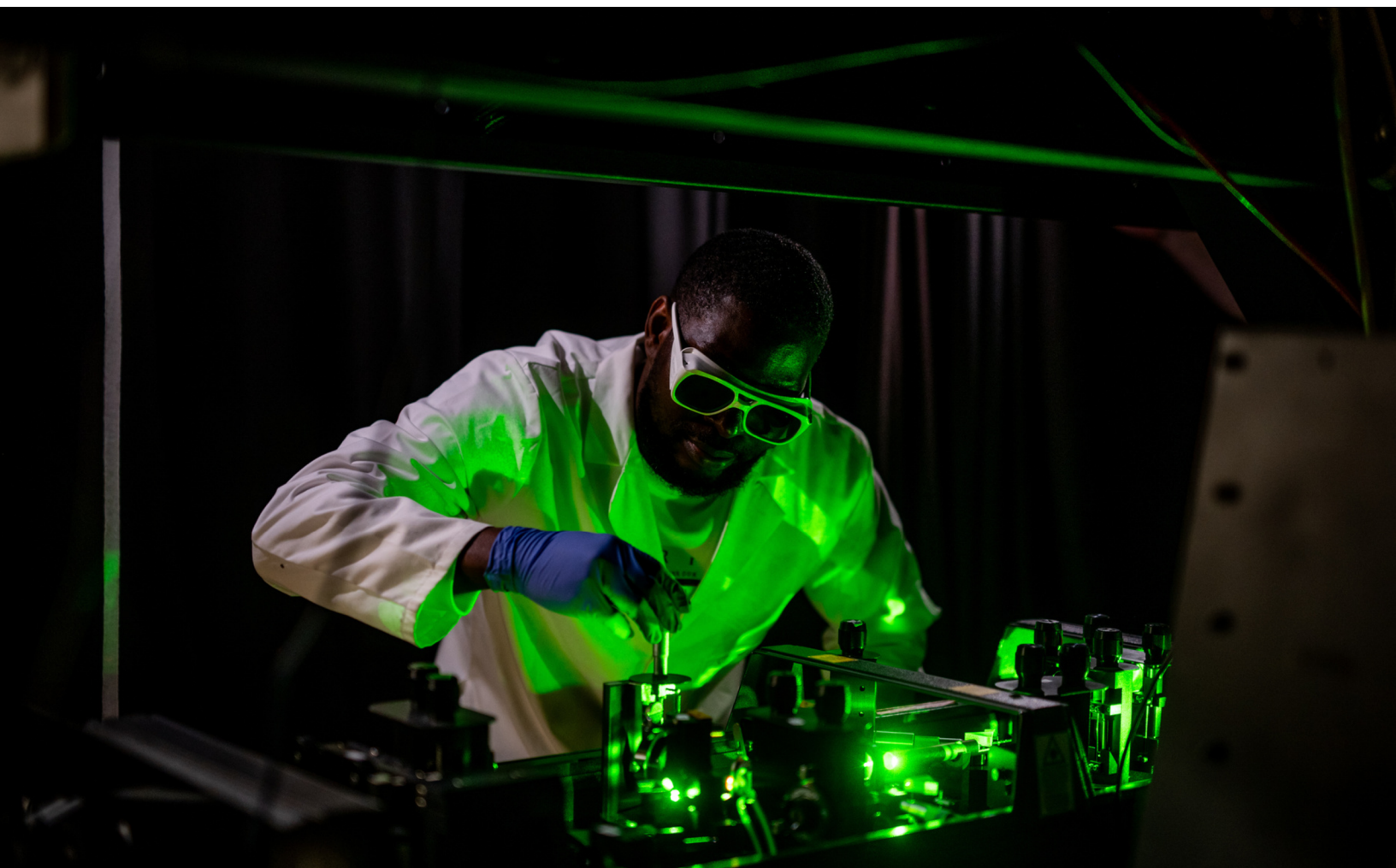
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UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate
and Postdoctoral Studies

CGPS.USASK.CA



Annual Report 2025-26

Date: May 21, 2026



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



Message from the Dean



Graduate students and postdoctoral scholars are central to the University of Saskatchewan’s research mission, advancing discovery, innovation, creative scholarship, and professional training. Their contributions strengthen the university’s impact across disciplines and prepare future researchers and professionals to address complex challenges.

Over the past year, graduate education has continued to evolve within a landscape shaped by policy shifts, global uncertainty, and rapid technological change. As I began my second term as Dean, I remained committed to providing responsive leadership during a period of both pressure and opportunity, with a continued focus on supporting graduate student success.

This report highlights key developments, student accomplishments, and the collective efforts of faculty and staff to sustain a strong, inclusive, and forward-looking graduate community. I am grateful for the dedication, resilience, and collaboration that continue to define graduate education at USask.

Sincerely,

Dr. Debby Burshtyn
Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

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Recognizing and Funding Excellence

One of the most significant milestones in 2025 was the launch of the long-anticipated **CGPS Awards HUB**, a centralized graduate application and awarding platform. The HUB streamlines funding searches, applications, and adjudication, improving efficiency for students while simplifying reference requests and application reviews for faculty.

In total, graduate students received over \$4 million in Tri-Agency funding in the 2025-26 year.

In January, CGPS held its 2nd annual **Celebrating U reception** to honour recipients of Tri-Agency and CGPS awards and welcomed a full house in recognition of academic excellence. The names of major scholarship recipients are curated on the [CGPS website](#).

In 2025, three outstanding PhD students were awarded **Vanier Scholarships** in the final year of the program – Arianna Gibson (SSHRC), Jeremy Irvine (NSERC) and Jinnath Rehana Ritu (NSERC).

	CIHR	NSERC	SSHRC
Master's	21	33	40
Doctoral	3	28	40
Vanier	1	5	3

Active students receiving Tri-Agency Funding 2025-26

Each year, CGPS selects two **Governor General's Gold Medals** are awarded to PhD recipients, one at Fall Convocation and one at Spring Convocation. At Fall 2025 Convocation, Dr. Geneveave Barbo received the medal for her research on immersive virtual reality simulations designed to better prepare nursing students to support migrants facing mental health challenges. The Spring 2026 recipient was embargoed at the time of this report.

The first wave of the federally funded **Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards program** launched in December 2025, to recruit PhD and postdoctoral trainees to Canadian institutions from abroad into eight research priority areas. USask was allocated 6 postdoctoral and 13 doctoral awards in total. Wave 1 generated strong interest from USask faculty, enabling awards to be offered across most priority areas, subject to limited allocations. Wave 2 awards will be allocated in June 2026, with a targeted focus on priority areas that were underrepresented in the first wave.

The Government of Saskatchewan offers two scholarships to support graduate and postgraduate students pursuing research and demonstrating leadership in their fields. In 2025-26, Thulani Hewavithana was the recipient of the **Lieutenant Governor Scholarship** and Ethan Landry (PhD) was the recipient of the **Lieutenant Governor Indigenous Scholarship**.

Starting in 2026-27, the Ministry of Advanced Education has announced additional funding, including two additional Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Scholarships, doubling the number of recipients moving forward.

CGPS continues to provide financial support for the **GSA–CGPS Need-Based Bursary program**, offered twice annually, and remains committed to supporting the GSA executive in delivering this important initiative.



Arianna Gibson, Vanier Recipient (SSHRC)



Jeremy Irvine, Vanier Recipient (NSERC)



Jinnath Rehana Ritu, Vanier Recipient (NSERC)



Dr. Geneveave Barbo, Governor General Gold Medallist

During Indigenous Achievement Week, doctoral student Dessa Gottfriedson (Interdisciplinary Studies, Le7 te Melámen cohort) was presented with an **Indigenous Achievement Award for Leadership** in recognition of her advocacy for equitable access to education in her community.

In October 2025, CGPS received news that the request to the Strategic Finance Committee for additional institutional funds to support graduate students was approved. We are grateful for a multi-year commitment that will result in over **\$1.3 million in new funding for graduate students** by 2028/2029, raising the minimum stipend for doctoral students to \$25,000 per year for four years in participating programs.

POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS

During **National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week** (September 2025), CGPS hosted a series of events recognizing the contributions of postdoctoral scholars at USask and supporting their professional development. Programming included a virtual academic career webinar, the Annual Postdoc Reception, and a new postdoc onboarding session, offering opportunities for learning, connection, and community building.

The **2025 Misiwéskamik International Postdoctoral Fellowship** recipient Dr. Fernanda Mascarenhas (PhD) is investigating how mitochondrial dysfunction contributes to the development and progression of Alzheimer's disease, led by supervisors Dr. Ana Paula Mendes Silva and Dr. Tyler Wenzel.

The **Living Skies Postdoctoral Fellowship** program launched a new call to provide funding opportunities for transdisciplinary research supported by USask faculty and external mentors in the Signature Areas of Water, Health & Wellness, Indigenous Peoples, One Health, and Agriculture.

In 2025, Dr. Crystal Giesbrecht (PhD) received the prestigious **Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship**. Giesbrecht's work investigates types of intimate partner violence and personality traits of perpetrators in efforts to improve responses and develop more tailored approaches to case management.

CGPS introduced **Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence Awards** in 2026, to celebrate excellence in research, scholarly and artistic work by postdocs at USask, recognizing their critical role in advancing the University's mission. These awards mark an important step in strengthening institutional recognition of postdoctoral excellence at USask, and the selected awardees will be formally announced at a later date.



Dr. Fernanda Mascarenhas,
Misiwéskamik Scholar



Dessa Gottfriedson,
Indigenous Achievement
Award, Leadership



Dr. Crystal Giesbrecht,
Banting Postdoctoral
Scholar

Professional Development for Postdocs

To support postdocs with career exploration both within and beyond academia, CGPS' PD portfolio offered a range of targeted professional development opportunities for postdoctoral scholars. These sessions helped build skills in leadership, networking, and research, and assisted in preparation for academic industry and public sector roles.



Equity, Access and Mentorship

CGPS continues to support graduate students, faculty and programs to achieve academic excellence by creating flexible pathways and student centric policies and support mechanisms.

In response to changes in the graduate education landscape, CGPS conducted a review of admissions policies. Following consultation, revisions were approved by CGPS Faculty Council in Spring 2025. The updates are intended to provide greater flexibility for admission committees when assessing applicants. While holistic reviews are now strongly encouraged, they are not mandatory.

Key policy updates include:

- **Graduate Certificates:** Established clear minimum admission requirements for graduate-level certificates, aligned closely with master's level entrance standards and formally documented in both the CGPS Policy Manual and the University Catalogue.
- **Graduate Certificate Laddering:** Introduced a new policy confirming that laddering from a certificate to a master's program is permitted at the academic unit's discretion. The policy outlines how certificate course credit may be applied for a master's degree and clarifies requirements related to GPS 960, tuition and fees.
- **PGD, Master's and PhD Admissions:** Revised entrance requirements by removing the 'honours' designation or four-year bachelor's degrees and clarifying that admission GPA is calculated using the most recent graded credit units (equivalent to the final two years of full-time study) at the time of application.

To support implementation, CGPS also developed a companion [Best Practices in Graduate Admissions Guide](#) to assist units.



Students, supervisors, and other members of the USask community attend the annual Celebrating U event



Graduate student researchers captured at the Sask Cancer Agency as part of the photoshoot for graduate recruitment efforts



CGPS staff volunteer at the 2026 USask 3MT Finals

To support student success, in collaboration with Access and Equity Services, graduate chairs, and supervisors, CGPS developed **individualized accommodation plans** for 22 master's and doctoral students in 2025–26 to support progress on non-coursework degree requirements. In addition, more than 300 graduate students received **course-based accommodations**. Associate Dean Jaswant Singh also supported more than 15 graduate students in navigating complex academic situations, including Required to Discontinue recommendations, supervisor-student conflicts, and academic appeals.

Professional development and engagement activities for graduate faculty continued throughout the year. In October 2025, Jae Morgans and Jaswant Singh delivered conflict-engagement training for graduate chairs.

The 2024-25 recipient of **Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award** was Dr. Janet Hill (PhD) from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

In recognition of outstanding service and support to graduate students at USask, Amy Hassett (M.Ed, Ed.D) from the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy was awarded the 2024-25 **Clement Employee Service Award**.

In November 2025, CGPS Graduate Mentorship Award recipients Dawn Wallin and Julia Boughner led a **Best Practices in Graduate Student Supervision workshop**, sharing mentorship strategies with early-career faculty. The April 2026 Graduate Chair Forum featured Dr. Wendy James, who provided an overview of the new Course Assessment policy and procedures scheduled for implementation in September 2027.

New policies around thesis and dissertation requirements were drafted to align with current and emerging needs of students and to provide clear guidance for students, supervisors, and advisory committee members and include a requirement to **declare use of generative AI tools** in preparation of the documents is expected to be passed at the May 28th CGPS Faculty Council meeting for fall implementation.

Much appreciation to members of the Council, CGPS Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, the Graduate Programs Committee and the Associate Deans Grad group for their input.

Interdisciplinary Studies

The Interdisciplinary Studies (InterD) program gratefully acknowledges Dr. Steven Rayan, who completed his term as Director and Graduate Chair of CGPS Interdisciplinary Studies on July 1, 2025. Dr. Monica Popa Sârghie assumed the role, continuing to advance initiatives that celebrate and strengthen interdisciplinary research.



Dr. Monica Popa Sârghie, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies

New initiatives include the **InterD Supervisor Award**, which recognizes USask faculty for excellence in supervising graduate students in the Interdisciplinary Studies program, and the **InterD Advisor Award** - honoring members of students' advisory committees who demonstrate exceptional commitment, valuable guidance, and dedicated efforts to strengthen interdisciplinary graduate research. Based on students' nominations and adjudicated by the InterD committee, this year's awards were presented to Dr. Lori Bradford and Dr. Cynthia R. Wallace (InterD Supervisor Award), Dr. Ibironke Odumosu-Ayanu and Dr. Simonne Horwitz (InterD Advisor Award).

The newly established **InterD Publication Award** provides financial support to InterD students for research publications in peer-reviewed journals that require publication fees.



2025-26 marked the inaugural year of the InterD Supervisor Award and the InterD Advisor Award



InterD students, supervisors and advisors attending the InterD Annual Symposium

The CGPS InterD program special events, embedded within the seminar requirements, included the **Interdisciplinary Studies Keynote Lecture** of Dr. Maureen G. Reed (UNESCO Chair in Biocultural diversity, sustainability, reconciliation, and renewal) entitled "Learning together, working together: A journey in transdisciplinary sustainability research".

The signature **W[InterD]ialogues** event featured Dr. Nora Dominguez, President Emeritus of the International Mentoring Association and director of the Mentoring Institute at the University of New Mexico, in an interactive dialogue focused on mentorship and developmental networks for graduate student success.

This series of events, open to the entire USask community, culminated in the **InterD Annual Symposium**, where eight interdisciplinary graduate research teams from diverse disciplines addressed today's pressing challenges for a better tomorrow in Saskatchewan, Canada and worldwide



Cousins workshop participants at red willow basket weaving workshop, led by Traditional Knowledge Keeper Lyndon J. Linklater

Indigenization and Decolonization

CGPS remains committed to fostering [an Indigenous graduate student community](#) that nurtures belonging and success and harnessing the richness of diverse viewpoints and wisdom.

In efforts to assist Indigenous students in building community, CGPS regularly hosts **Cousins Workshops** with a 'busy hands' model that encourages students to make connections through cultural and artistic activities.

2025/26 workshops included:

- Red willow basket weaving
- Sun printing in the College of Law Medicine Garden
- Virtual/in-person beading sessions
- Ribbon skirt/shirt sewing workshop
- Tufting workshop

Other Cousins meet-ups included virtual, and in-person work jams, a family movie night, sharing circles, information sessions, Turkey Bingo and more.

In 2025/26, the **Indigenous Graduate Leadership Circle** welcomed its second cohort, led by Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator Aurora Wolfe to amplify and center Indigenous student voices.

In October 2025, CGPS hosted a panel discussion with UBC Indigenous scholars Drs. Margaret Kovach, Shawn Wilson, Monty Montgomery, and PhD candidate Lindsay DuPré focused on **creating meaningful space for Indigenous graduate students**. The session also invited USask Indigenous graduate students to share their experiences as part of a study examining Indigenous graduate student support programs at Western Canadian universities.

This year, CGPS continued its **Holiday Hamper** program, providing pantry staples and sweet treats to over 20 Indigenous graduate students and their families.

According to preliminary 2025-26 data, Indigenous graduate student enrolment is up 22%, with incoming students increasing across programs.

Full details on past and ongoing Indigenization and Decolonization efforts at CGPS will be found in the 2026 ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan report.



Professional Development



InterD student and composer Paul Suchan debuts a composition inspired by climate change at TEDxUniversityofSaskatchewan 2026.



3MT 2026 finalists and judges



The Graduate Mentorship Program celebrated 19 successful students in the first cohort of the program

Graduate studies explored the edges at [TEDxUniversityofSaskatchewan 2026](#), with five graduate students taking the stage to deliver ground-breaking talks.

Falling Walls Lab Edmonton, part of an international research communication competition showcasing breakthrough ideas, featured strong USask representation in August 2025 with one graduate student and one postdoctoral scholar advancing to the finals.

This year's [USask 3MT competition](#) featured preparatory workshops and one-on-one finalist coaching. Participation was broader than ever, with new academic units represented in the preliminary round and 12 finalists competing in April. Congratulations to Biology PhD student Cassidy Waldrep, who earned first place, and went on to compete at the Western Regional Finals at the University of Regina.

The **Graduate Mentorship Program**, launched in May 2025, successfully completed its inaugural cohort with 19 PhD students matched with mentors from academia, industry, government, and entrepreneurship. Strong student demand has led to the program's expansion to include master's students in its second cohort.

The CGPS **Professional Skills Suite (ProSkills)** delivered nine in-class sessions, equipping 125 graduate students with key competencies in areas such as communication, leadership, and career planning. Two additional modules are in development, alongside efforts to expand faculty engagement with professional development programming.

CGPS delivered a range of centralized **professional development (LevelUP) workshops**, engaging nearly 150 graduate students through virtual and in-person sessions. While most workshops, particularly those focused on career preparation, were well attended. The Cultural Adjustment Series for international students (developed to replace GPS 981) was discontinued due to consistently low participation.

Professional Development (continued)

Through partnerships with the Library and Gwenna Moss Centre, CGPS supported graduate student development in research ethics, teaching, and professional skills, with more than 1,100 students completing the GPS 960 Ethics course and strong participation across teaching and certificate programs. These collaborations also contributed to broader research impact and teaching excellence, including ongoing engagement with the Undergraduate Research Journal and multiple professional development offerings.

In partnership with Edwards School of Business, CGPS PD Specialist Kenisha Blair facilitated the professional coaching of 12 graduate students by professionals who participated in the school's Executive Coaching Program.

The **Dean's Support Fund sponsorship program** that funds student-led conferences and initiatives sponsored 11 events, engaging several thousand graduate students supporting conference organizing skill development and hands-on experience.

Programming, Enrolment and Recruitment

PROGRAMMING

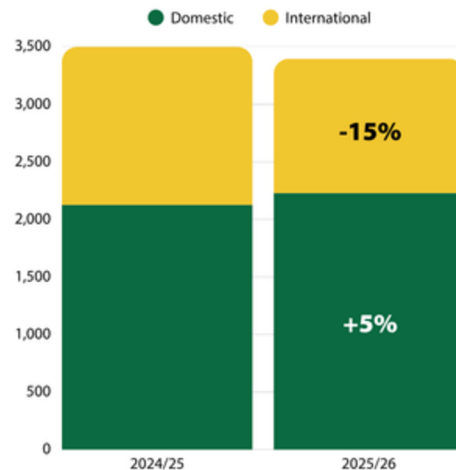
New in programming, University Council approved the Master of Science in Periodontology, the Graduate Certificate in Large Animal Veterinary Specialty Internship and the Graduate Certificate in Improvement Science. The application cycle for the Master of Occupational Therapy and Master of Speech-Language Pathology programs opened for the Fall 2026 intake with very strong application numbers (237 and 142 respectively). CGPS approved two new special case admission programs, two cotutelle doctoral programs, and three cotutelle doctoral notices of intent.

ENROLMENT

Winter census data (as of April 19, 2026) shows a 3% decline in overall graduate enrolment, driven by a 15% decrease in international students, likely a consequence of federal Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) requirements and low study permit approval rates. Domestic (+5%) and self-declared Indigenous (+22%) enrolment increased over the same period.

As of January 1, 2026, the federal government **removed the PAL requirement** for international master's and PhD students, though it remains in place for most graduate certificate and Visiting Research Students.

For full details on last year's enrolment, see the [2024-25 Graduate Student and Postdoc Scholar Report](#).



RECRUITMENT

CGPS continues to collaborate with Student Recruitment, Student Marketing and Communications, and Digital Strategy to strengthen a coordinated graduate recruitment strategy, including a series of Lunch & Learn sessions to engage programs and align efforts.

Last May, CGPS organized a photoshoot highlighting several units across campus to create a library of grad-specific brand assets. These assets supported the creation of a [grad viewbook](#) that serves as a recruitment tool for prospective students.

In the coming year, CGPS will continue developing agreements with external scholarship agencies and advancing their implementation.

CONTINUOUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance service to students and stakeholders, CGPS staff received training in the BIFF communication model at the annual staff retreat, facilitated by Jae Morgans.

In 2025–26, CGPS introduced monthly Graduate Administrator Forums to share policy updates, provide guidance, and address questions. The sessions saw strong attendance and engagement, and continuation of this format is being considered for the future.



*CGPS is proud to celebrate the growth and development of our team. The results of the **2025 Employee Engagement Survey** demonstrated a promising increase in overall engagement, reflecting the college's commitment to staff and students.*

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The CGPS resource allocation for operations for 2026-27 will be reduced by 0.7% and the reduced international application pressure creates significant budgetary constraints. To match rising costs, effective Fall 2025, graduate program application fees increased \$5 for domestic applicants and \$25 for international applicants. This marked the first application fee increase since Spring 2020 and positions CGPS competitively among western U15 institutions while supporting efficient application processing.

A new fee of \$20/term to defer the delivery of professional development programming for graduate students was approved and will begin to be charged in Fall 2026.

As part of fiscal sustainability measures, a valued team member position will not be replaced. Lori Lisitza served as Executive Officer for over eight years, building strong relationships and leading numerous initiatives to streamline operations; her contributions will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

THANK YOU TO 2025-26 COMMITTEE & COUNCIL MEMBERS!

CGPS extends its gratitude to the many individuals who served on committees this past year. Without your dedication and service, the delivery of countless awards and initiatives would not be possible.

A special thanks to the following outgoing members:

Awards & Scholarship Committee

Ajay Dalai, Chemical & Biological Engineering
Bishnu Acharya, Chemical & Biological Engineering
Gupreet Aulakh, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Elizabeth Quinlan, Sociology

Graduate Programs Committee

Ann Martin, English
Maud Ferrari, Veterinary Biomedical Sciences

Interdisciplinary Committee

Pammla Petrucka, Nursing

Nominations Committee

Valery Chirkov, Psychology and Health Studies

Postdoctoral Advisory Committee

Andrey Freywald, Pathology
Jonathan Norton, Surgery

CGPS Faculty Council

Andrei Smolyakov, Physics and Engineering Physics
Christian Willenborg, Plant Sciences
Maruti Uppalapati, Pathology
Pierre-Francois Noppen, Philosophy
Randy Kutcher, Plant Sciences
Shafiz Alam, Chemical & Biological Engineering

We'd also like to thank the following graduate students and postdocs who've served on committees this year:

Palash Roy, GSA President (CGPS Faculty Council, Executive and Coordinating Committee)
Lindsay Carlson (Awards and Scholarships)
Laila Valila (CGPS Faculty Council)
Mandela Alema (CGPS Faculty Council, Graduate Programs Committee, Graduate Academic Affairs Committee)
Ghazal Mousavian (Interdisciplinary Committee)
Cody Koloski (CGPS Faculty Council)
Dean Shameess (CGPS Faculty Council)
Gabriela Sieminska-Jauck (CGPS Faculty Council)
Jeremy Irvine (CGPS Faculty Council)
Mike Scott (CGPS Faculty Council)
Yesu Ramya Kandregula (CGPS Faculty Council)
Keigan Lloyd (CGPS Faculty Council)
Samantha Carly (CGPS Faculty Council)
Tamanna Jahan (CGPS Faculty Council, Postdoctoral Advisory Committee)
Mohammad Miah (CGPS Faculty Council, Postdoctoral Advisory Committee)
Yang Lin (Postdoctoral Advisory Committee)

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

FOR CGPS FACULTY COUNCIL INFORMATION | May 12, 2026


Convocation E-Vote Brief

Background

In Fall 2024, CGPS Faculty Council approved moving the voting on convocation lists for graduate degrees, diplomas, and certificate programs to an electronic format effective May 1, 2025. This has enabled CGPS to continue to be as flexible as possible within the confines of the timelines provided to us by the Registrar's Office while allowing CGPS Council members adequate time to fully review the convocation lists prior to voting.

Approval of the Spring Convocation Lists

On May 7, 2026, all members of CGPS Faculty Council received an email invitation to vote on the motion to approve the Spring 2026 convocation list (as below). Voting was open from 9:00 AM on Thursday, May 7, through to 4:00 PM on Monday, May 11th. Reminders to vote were sent on Monday, May 11th.



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Motion to approve June 2026 graduate degree, diploma, and certificate convocation list

1. Motion: That the names of candidates for the award of degrees, diplomas and certificates contained in the June 2026 convocation list and circulated to graduate chairs be recommended to University Council for approval and that the CGPS Graduate Faculty Council authorizes the Dean, CGPS to add or remove the names of any additional candidates that meet, or do not meet the requirements for degrees, diplomas, and certificates.

In favour
 Opposed
 Abstain

The motion was unanimously approved; 59% of CGPS Faculty Council members voted.

We will continue with electronic voting to approve convocation lists going forward, however will work towards a higher overall participation rate of Council members. If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve our outreach to Council members regarding electronic approval of convocation lists, please contact marc.usunier@usask.ca.



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Telephone: 306-966-5751
Email: grad.studies@usask.ca

For CGPS Graduate Faculty Council information | May 14, 2026

Spring 2026 Convocation Awards

Master's Thesis Awards

Fine Arts and Humanities:	Soheila Fallah	School for the Arts
Life Sciences:	Evan Kohlman	Toxicology Centre
Physical and Engineering Sciences:	Shawn McAdam	Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Social Sciences A:	Christie Fender	Department of Anthropology

Doctoral Dissertation Awards

Fine Arts and Humanities:	Tenille Campbell	Department of English
Life Sciences:	Cody Malone	Department of Veterinary Microbiology
Physical and Engineering Sciences:	Vi Phan	Department of Chemistry
Social Sciences A:	Geneveave Barbo	College of Nursing
Social Sciences B:	Rebekah Bennetch	College of Education

Herbert Percy Toop Memorial Prize in Scientific Writing

Lukas Fehr – Department of Physics and Engineering Physics