

Department of Surgery
Graduate Program

Graduate students are the representatives of your
research

Statistics

typically 40-45 students in the program (8-10 turnover per year)

~50% PhD

Well represented with awards (Vanier, CIHR doctoral and MSc; as well as local)

Our students do publish well.

Common trajectory for those that finish is clinical-Residents or MD students

Recruitment

There is a good stream of 8-10 students entering program per year

CIP/Clinical representation

Encourage other disciplines of research opportunities in the Department

New FOMD PhD scholarship 2018 (3 year 12.5K matching funds)

The changing face of the graduate student

Academic career pathway is the *alternative* career

Graduate programs provide a number of valuable “real world” skills outside of research ones.

Need to showcase and highlight what these training opportunities are

Professional development requirements

Off the books training--"Soft Skills"

Project management

Time management

Data analysis and interpretation

Problem solving

Managing complex tasks

Decision making

Ethics

Communication and presentation-oral and written

Leadership

Teamwork

FGSR professional development requirements (2016)

Two components:

Individualized Development Plan (IDP)

Student driven with input from supervisors

completed in first 12 months (MSc)/18 months (PhD)

8 hours of training activities to fulfil needs highlighted in IDP

focus on how to do something rather than the experience in doing task

Changing to role of the Supervisor

Move from “supervision” to “mentorship”

Guidelines drafted by FGSR for these roles

Reality is a combination of these roles:

supervisor

mentor

coach

Learning Objectives

Requirement from FGSR and Advanced Education.

Define what these are for our graduate program (PhD, MSc, MSc, Surgical Education).

Competency based assessment/advancement

Establish expectations for both the student and supervisor.

Calendar requirements

All program information to be included in the University of Alberta Calendar.

Less reliance on the Graduate Program Manual

Chance to update and improve policy in the graduate program

New FGSR Guidelines:

All requirements (except for thesis) to be completed
by third year

Ethics and PD training

Courses

Candidacy exam

Proposed Changes-Entrance Requirements

Current

3.0 GPA

English Requirements--FGSR
Standards

Proposed Options

Increase GPA to 3.3

Increase stringency for English
proficiencies?

Proposed Changes-Courses

Current

Required: Surg 530, Surg600,
Statistics Course

MSc: One additional graded course
(500+) (**4 courses total**)

PhD: three additional graded
courses (500+) (**Six courses total**)

Proposed Options

Reduce course numbers?

Eliminate requirement of Statistics
Course?

Eliminate Surg 530, Surg 600?

Add additional course- Science
communication?

Methodology?

Course requirements in other programs

MSGP- MSc 1 three credit course; PhD 2- three credit course

MMI- MSc seminar course + 2 three credit courses; PhD 1 seminar + 3 three credit

Cell Biology MSc 5 credits of graded course work; PhD 9 credits (graded).

Suggestion in alignment with other Departments/Programs

MSc (3 courses)

Surg 530

Surg 600

1 additional course (Stats course if needed)

PhD 4 courses

Surg 530

Surg 600

2 additional courses (can make Stats course required)

Proposed Changes-Candidacy Exam

Current

Open topic based on thesis research

No written assessment

Proposed Options

Written component-PhD proposal

Defend the research proposal

Knowledge of thesis topic

Rationale: Candidacy exam

Standardizes expectations for the student and examiners (Learning objectives)

Provides assessment of students writing abilities

Most PhD students transfer from MSc (research proposal has changed since enrollment)

Proposed changes-Final thesis examinations

Current

Closed defense

20 min presentation to examination committee

Proposed Option

Semi-public defense (1 hour research presentation) open to the public

Seminar from external speaker (PhD defense)

Additional Topics?