Examples of Graduate Professional Programs

Here are a number of excellent models of graduate professional programming at SFU:

1. The Master of Arts in Applied Legal Studies in Criminology employs a “stand-alone” cohort blended delivery model where all but two courses are offered online using synchronous and asynchronous delivery. The in-person courses are taught by regular faculty, the online portion is delivered by Code with sessional instructors/TAs, and admissions are managed by Criminology via the Dean of Graduate Studies (DGS) office.

2. The Faculty of Education offers a Master of Education (MEd) that is delivered off-campus and made up of six (5 unit) courses and a comprehensive examination. The courses are taught in the evening or weekends (once per month) with one course per term being offered. Special cohorts are offered in specific locals using their network of qualified instructors, program oversight is provided by a steering committee, and the generic nature of the program allows for flexibility every couple of years with different faculty members taking the lead to provide a program of instruction in their area of interest.

3. The Faculty of Education also offers Graduate certificates built upon their existing MEd’s that leverage existing courses and students can either terminate upon completion of the certificate or ladder into the MEd program.

4. Beedie School of Business offers a complete online Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (GDBA) made up of six four credit courses. This option allows them to develop further “specializations” of the GDBA by blending three of the online courses with three new courses in specific areas (see their new GDBA in Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation). These courses can be delivered through regular scheduling and complement their existing program or through weekend courses.

Royal Roads University and Athabasca University are two other Canadian institutions that have developed extensive graduate programming using an online environment. Royal Roads employs extensive blended delivery of course material whereas Athabasca relies more heavily on online delivery.