

Simon Fraser University
Maggie Benston Centre
1100
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

TEL 778.782.3042
FAX 778.782.3080

gradstudies@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/grad

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate Graduate Studies Committee DATE January 7, 2025
FROM Mary O'Brien,
Chair of Senate Graduate Studies
Committee
RE: 2024 Annual Report of SGSC



I am pleased to submit the 2024 Senate Graduate Studies Committee Annual Report.

The Senate Graduate Studies Committee is charged by Senate with the following terms of reference:

1. *To maintain the academic standards established by Senate.*
2. *To review and make recommendations to Senate concerning new graduate programs.*
3. *To review and make recommendations to Senate concerning major changes to graduate programs.*
4. *To review and approve all proposed new graduate courses, course deletions, and minor changes to programs. These changes shall be reported to Senate in summary form.*
5. *To administer, review and make recommendations to Senate concerning Graduate General Regulations.*
6. *To consider matters concerning Graduate Studies referred to the Committee, and to make recommendations to the appropriate bodies.*
7. *To consider and decide on policy recommendations concerning graduate course registration, course and program withdrawal procedures, and on the administration of graduate records.*

This report covers the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, during which SGSC held 11 meetings and one SGSC Retreat.

SGSC Appeal subcommittee (Unsatisfactory Progress under GGR 1.8.2)

There were two appeals in 2024.

SGSC Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies Steering Committee

In 2024, five applications were reviewed, five students were offered admission and four accepted. A total of six INS students graduated in 2024, and as of the end of 2024, there are 35 active INS students.

Discussions on Graduate Education

SGSC discussed various issues including the Faculty of Graduate Studies Proposal, Leave of Absence Policy, English Language Proficiency and AI and co-authorship in theses. Among other issues reviewed were additional credentials and defences and graduation paperwork deadlines. The committee also discussed delineating Masters programs and co-curricular record. SGSC reviewed, recommended, approved and submitted to Senate, curriculum changes related to the addition, deletion and modification of programs and courses.

Revisions to Policies and Programs

a) Graduate General Regulations:

- GGR 1.8.1 Progress Evaluation
- GGR 1.4.5 Leave of Absence
- GGR 1.3.3 English Language Proficiency
- GGR 1.7.7c Laddering Credit
- GGR 1.3.10 Admission of a Non-degree Student
- GGR 1.7.7a Transfer Credit and 1.7.7b Advance Credit
- GGR 1.12.1 Time Limit and 1.12.2 Extensions
- GGR 1.3.6c Admissions to an Accelerated Master's
- GGR 1.6.7 Human Subjects Ethics Review

b) FAS: Sustainable Energy Engineering MEng

c) FASS: French MA; Linguistics MA; Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies PhD; Economics MA; Philosophy PhD; Public Policy MPP; Urban Studies MUrb

d) FCAT: Publishing MPub; IAT MA, IAT MSc, IAT PhD

e) BUS: MBA, Executive MBA, MOT MBA; IBL EMBA, IBL Graduate Diploma, IBL Graduate Certificate; GDBA; Graduate Certificate in Digital Innovation; Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics; Graduate Certificate in Financial Analysis

f) SCI: Earth Sciences MSc; MBB MSc; Chemistry MSc, Chemistry PhD

New Programs Approved and Recommended

FENV: Environmental Science MSc FPP

FENV: Environmental Science PhD FPP

BUS: Global Management Graduate Certificate FPP

BUS: Sustainable Futures Graduate Certificate FPP

Curriculum Changes Approved

Program Changes	Program Terminations	New Courses	Course Changes	Courses Reinstated	Courses Deleted
30	1	50	51	2	10

Graduate Admissions, Enrolments and Credentials Awarded

In 2023/24, the overall number of applications stayed steady and increased by just under 1%, with 0.5% decrease in international applicants compared to the previous academic year and just over 4% increase in the number of domestic applicants. The overall number of applications is 4% below the three-year average.

From 2022/23 to 2023/24 the number of offers extended increased by 10%, but new enrollments decreased by 4.5%. International offers have increased by just under 19% in comparison to the previous year. The number of offers accepted decreased slightly, 75% compared to 77% the previous year.

There was a 4% decrease in the total number of credentials awarded however, there was a 5% increase in Masters degrees awarded in 2024 in comparison to the previous year.

Graduate Admissions	21/22	22/23	23/24
Applications	11895	10431	10513
International	8532	7657	7618
Domestic	3363	2774	2895
Offers	2976	2642	2907
International	1394	1240	1473
Domestic	1582	1402	1434
Accepted offers	2312	2029	2179
International	960	860	960
Domestic	1352	1169	1219
New Enrollments	2027	1788	1707
International	786	729	625
Domestic	1241	1059	1082

Enrollments	21/22	22/23	2023/24
Total*	4446	4255	4041
International			1515
Domestic			2526
Degree**	3852	3786	3679
International			1478
Domestic			2201

*Total headcount of all graduate students (degree, certificate, diploma, exchange and qualifying)

** Total headcount of master's and doctoral students

Credentials Awarded	2022	2023	2024
Masters (M)	1126	1242	1302
International			502
Domestic			800
Doctoral (D)	170	197	170
International			58
Domestic			112
Total (including certificates and diplomas)	1547	1753	1681
International			577
Domestic			1104

SGSC members during 2024 were:

- M. O'Brien, Chair, Dean and Vice Provost of Graduate Studies
- G. Agnes, P. Stern, E. Chenier, M. Kennett, Associate Dean(s), Graduate Studies
- P. Saeedi, Chair FGSC, Applied Sciences
- K. Slaney, Chair FGSC, Arts and Social Sciences
- S. Gupta, Chair (s) FGSC, Business
- A. Eigenfeldt, Chair FGSC, Communication, Art and Technology
- L. Le Mare, E. Gebre, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies in Education
- C. Giovas, Chair FGSC, Environment
- L. McCandless, Director of Graduate Programs, Health Sciences
- V. Williams, Chair FGSC, Science
- M. Khaleghi, C. Lacroix, GSS Executive Representative
- M. Grahame, Associate Director, Graduate Admissions, Records & Registration
- N. White, University Librarian designate
- A. Walter, R. Faris, S. Ali, M. Traversa, R. Puderak, Graduate Students
- Z. Ahmed, Manager, Graduate Curriculum & Policy (non-voting)
- S. Juriga, Recording Secretary (non-voting)