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**MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTENTION** Senate **DATE** May 16, 2025  
**FROM** Mary O'Brien,  
 Chair of Senate Graduate Studies  
 Committee (SGSC)  
**RE:** Program Changes



**For information:**

Acting under delegated authority at its meeting of **May 6, 2025**, SGSC approved the following curriculum item, effective **Spring 2026**:

**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Department of Philosophy

- 1) Program Change: Philosophy MA

**Faculty of Environment**

Department of Geography

- 1) Program Change: Geography MA  
 Program Change: Geography MSc



## Memo

**Attention** Mary O'Brien, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies

**From** Kate. Slaney, Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, FASS

**Subject** Items for SGSC

**Date** March 19, 2025

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Dear Mary,

The following were approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Studies Committee on March 18, 2025, and are forwarded to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for approval. Please include them on the next SGSC agenda.

### **1 Department of English**

~~Graduate Course ENGL 834, 835, 843, 844, 850, 853 Change  
To be effective for Spring 2026~~

### **2 Department of Philosophy**

Calendar Change  
To be effective for Summer 2026

### **3 Department of Political Science**

Calendar Change  
~~To be effective for Spring 2026~~

Please add these items for consideration at the next SGSC meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,

To: FASS Graduate Studies Committee  
From: Jennifer Wang, Philosophy Graduate Program Chair  
Re: Calendar Entry Change for MA Program in Philosophy  
Date: February 7, 2025

The following program changes have been approved by the Department of Philosophy. These curricular items should be effective for Summer 2026, or the earliest possible effective term. Please include them on the next FASSGSC agenda for approval.

- Calendar Entry Change for MA Program in Philosophy (clarify course requirements)



Jennifer Wang  
Philosophy Graduate Program Chair

### Calendar Entry Change for Philosophy MA

<p>Summary of change:</p> <p>We are updating the language of our calendar entry under “Program Requirements” to align with the language under “Other Information” / “Course Work”. The latter reflects our actual course requirements, which permit students to take a 300- or 400 level course in place of one graduate seminar. This information will be moved up to “Program Requirements”.</p>
<p>Rationale for change:</p> <p>Our MA students are permitted to take a 300- or 400-level course in place of one graduate seminar in our MA program. Due to oversight, this detail does not appear at the top of the calendar entry, under “Program Requirements”. For clarity, we will add it to “Program Requirements” and remove it from “Course Work”, where it will no longer be necessary.</p>
<p>Effective term and year: Spring 2026</p>
<p>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students?</p> <p>No. This change only clarifies existing policy.</p>

**Calendar Change:** All deletions should be crossed out as follows: All additions should be marked in **bold font**. Do not use “to” and “from” sections.

### Program Requirements

This program consists of coursework and a project or thesis for a minimum of 41 units.

Students must complete

PHIL 880 - Pro-Seminar (5)

and five graduate Philosophy courses\*

and requirements for one of the options below

#### Project Option

and one additional Philosophy graduate course

and a project

PHIL 899 - Professional Paper Project Completion (6)

#### Thesis Option

and a thesis

PHIL 898 - MA Thesis (18)

**\*One course may be substituted with a 300 or 400 division Philosophy undergraduate course with a grade of A- or better**

### Program Length

Students are expected to complete the program requirements in six terms.

### Other Information

#### Course Work

Students are required to complete at least one course in each of the three main area streams: value theory, metaphysics and epistemology, history of philosophy. Before enrollment in course work, the GPC will evaluate past course work completed in the area streams and recommend the remaining course work area distribution. ~~One course may be a 300 division Philosophy undergraduate course with a grade of A- (GPA of 3.67) or better.~~

In order to receive credit towards graduation, a course must be passed with a grade of at

least B+ (GPA of 3.33). Grades of B or lower do not count towards graduation requirements of any kind.



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**To:** Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)  
**From:** Christina Giovas, Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Environment  
**Re:** GEOG 629 and accelerated master's pathway for Geography's MA and MSc programs  
**Date:** March 31, 2025

The following proposed new course ~~GEOG 629~~ and accelerated master's pathway for Geography's MA and MSc programs have been approved by the Faculty of Environment and are forwarded to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for approval. The proposed changes are intended for Spring 2026 implementation. Please include these materials on the SGSC agenda for consideration at the May 6, 2025, meeting.

- ~~New Course: GEOG 629 — Racial Capitalism and Beyond~~
- Calendar Entry Change for Geography (MSc and MA programs): Accelerated master's pathway

The details and rationale of the proposed changes are described in the accompanying package from Geography Graduate Program Chair Rosemary Collard. ~~An overlap check has been completed for GEOG 629.~~

Thank you for the committee's consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina Giovas".

Christina Giovas  
Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies  
Faculty of Environment  
P: 778 782 906 | E: [fenv\\_adr@sfu.ca](mailto:fenv_adr@sfu.ca)



Faculty of Environment  
Department of Geography  
Rosemary Collard / rcollard@sfu.ca  
RCB 7124- 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC Canada V5A 1S6

## MEMORANDUM

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ATTENTION Christina Giovas, Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies, FENV  
DATE 24 March 2025  
FROM Rosemary Collard, Graduate Program Chair, Department of Geography  
PAGES 1  
RE Program Change – adding accelerated master’s pathway for GEOG MA and MSc

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Dear Christina,

Geography would like to create an accelerated master’s pathway for its MA and MSc programs. The accelerated master’s is an approved admissions option for all programs.

This proposal has been ratified by the Faculty in the Department of Geography.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosemary Collard'.

Rosemary Collard,  
Graduate Program Chair and Associate Professor  
Department of Geography

## Calendar Entry Change for Geography MA

<p>Summary of change: Adding the accelerated masters pathway to Geography’s academic calendar entry for the MA program.</p>
<p>Rationale for change: To allow undergraduate students to take graduate level courses and apply them to both their undergraduate and graduate course requirements</p>
<p>Effective term and year: Spring 2026</p>
<p>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students? The change will not impact current graduate students. It will have a positive impact for current undergraduate students who are interested in doing a master’s degree in the department and are interested in taking graduate courses as undergraduate students, and applying them to both their undergraduate and graduate course requirements.</p>

**Calendar Change:** All deletions should be crossed out as follows: All additions should be marked in **bold font**. Do not use “to” and “from” sections.

<h3>Program Requirements</h3> <p>This program consists of two introductory seminars, three graduate geography courses, a thesis proposal and a thesis, for a minimum of 30 units. Those admitted without an appropriate academic background may be required to complete additional coursework.</p> <p>Students must complete both of</p> <p>GEOG 600 - Introduction to Graduate Studies: Fall Semester (1) GEOG 601 - Introduction to Graduate Studies: Spring Semester (1)</p> <p>and*</p> <p>GEOG 603 - Theory and Methods for Human Geographers (5)</p> <p>and two of*</p> <p>GEOG 620 - Selected Topics: Economy, Environment and Development (4) GEOG 621 - Advanced Geographical Political Economy (4) GEOG 640 - Selected Topics in Social and Urban Geography (4)</p>
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GEOG 651 - Advanced Spatial Analysis and Modeling (4)  
GEOG 653 - Remote Sensing of Environment (4)  
GEOG 655 - Advanced Principles of Geographic Information Science (4)  
GEOG 657 - Geovisualization Interfaces (4)  
GEOG 665 - Relational Geographies of Conquest and Liberation (4)  
GEOG 681 - Law and the Geographies of Power (4)  
GEOG 686 - Advanced Health Geography (4)  
GEOG 691 - Directed Readings (4)

and a thesis proposal

GEOG 678 - MA Thesis Proposal (1)

and a thesis

GEOG 698 - MA Thesis (18)

\* Course substitutions may be allowed for different graduate geography courses or graduate courses outside of geography subject to approval.

## Thesis

The program requires the submission and successful defence of a thesis. The thesis involves the conceptualization of a problem and the collection, analysis, and interpretation of empirical data. A written proposal is submitted to the supervisory committee, defended in colloquium, and approved by the end of the second term, before substantive research has commenced. The completed thesis is judged by the thesis examining committee at an oral defence.

## Accelerated Master's in Geography

**SFU students accepted in the accelerated masters' within Geography may apply a maximum of 10 graduate course units, taken while completing the bachelor's degree, towards the upper division electives of the bachelor's program and the requirements of the master's degree. Courses should be selected in consultation with the prospective supervisor of the student's master's research. Students in this option may only take graduate courses in Geography. They may NOT take GEOG 600 or GEOG 601. For more information go to: <http://www.sfu.ca/gradstudies/apply/programs/accelerated-masters>**

## Program Length

Students are expected to complete the program requirements in six (6) terms.

## Calendar Entry Change for Geography MSc

<p>Summary of change: Adding the accelerated masters pathway to Geography’s academic calendar entry for the MSc program.</p>
<p>Rationale for change: To allow undergraduate students to take graduate level courses and apply them to both their undergraduate and graduate course requirements</p>
<p>Effective term and year: Spring 2026</p>
<p>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students? The change will not impact current graduate students. It will have a positive impact for current undergraduate students who are interested in doing a master’s degree in the department and are interested in taking graduate courses as undergraduate students, and applying them to both their undergraduate and graduate course requirements.</p>

**Calendar Change:** All deletions should be crossed out as follows: All additions should be marked in **bold font**. Do not use “to” and “from” sections.

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GEOG 617 - Soil Science (4)  
GEOG 651 - Advanced Spatial Analysis and Modeling (4)  
GEOG 653 - Remote Sensing of Environment (4)  
GEOG 655 - Advanced Principles of Geographic Information Science (4)  
GEOG 657 - Geovisualization Interfaces (4)  
GEOG 658 - Advanced Ecohydrology (4)  
GEOG 691 - Directed Readings (4)

and a thesis proposal

GEOG 677 - Msc Thesis Proposal (1)

and a thesis

GEOG 697 - MSc Thesis (18)

\* Course substitutions may be allowed for different graduate geography courses or graduate courses outside of geography subject to approval.

## Thesis

The program requires the submission and successful defence of a thesis. The thesis involves the conceptualization of a problem and the collection, analysis, and interpretation of empirical data. A written proposal is submitted to the supervisory committee, defended in colloquium, and approved by the end of the second term, and before substantive research has commenced. The completed thesis is assessed by the thesis examining committee at an oral defence.

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