



Faculty of Religious Studies (Graduate)
Programs, Courses and University Regulations
2014-2015

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This publication provides guidance to prospects, applicants, students, faculty and staff.

- 1 . McGill University reserves the right to make changes to the information contained in this online publication - including correcting errors, altering fees, schedules of admission, and credit requirements, and revising or cancelling particular courses or programs - without prior notice.
- 2 . In the interpretation of academic regulations, the Senate is the final authority.
- 3 . Students are responsible for informing themselves of the University's procedures, policies and regulations, and the specific requirements associated with the degree, diploma, or certificate sought.
- 4 . All students registered at McGill University are considered to have agreed to act in accordance with the University procedures, policies and regulations.
- 5 . Although advice is readily available on request, the responsibility of selecting the appropriate courses for graduation must ultimately rest with the student.
- 6 . Not all courses are offered every year and changes can be made after publication. Always check the Minerva Class Schedule link at https://horizon.mcgill.ca/pban1/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched for the most up-to-date information on whether a course is offered.
- 7 . The academic publication year begins at the start of the Fall semester and extends through to the end of the Winter semester of any given year. Students who begin study at any point within this period are governed by the regulations in the publication which came into effect at the start of the Fall semester.
- 8 . Notwithstanding any other provision of the publication, it is expressly understood by all students that McGill University accepts no responsibility to provide any course of instruction, program or class, residential or other services including the normal range of academic, residential and/or other services in circumstances of utility interruptions, fire, flood, strikes, work stoppages, labour disputes, war, insurrection, the operation of law or acts of God or any other cause (whether similar or dissimilar to those enumerated) which reasonably prevent their provision.

Note: Throughout this publication, "you" refers to students newly admitted, readmitted or returning to McGill.

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1 Dean's Welcome

To Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows:

I am extremely pleased to welcome you to McGill University. Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) collaborates with the Faculties and other administrative and academic units to provide strategic leadership and vision for graduate teaching, supervision, and research across our over 400 graduate programs. GPS also oversees quality assurance in admissions and registration, the disbursement of graduate fellowships, support for postdoctoral fellows, and facilitates graduate degree completion, including the examination of theses. GPS has partnered with Enrolment Services to manage the admission and registration of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and to offer streamlined services in a one-stop location at [Service Point](#).

McGill is a student-centred research institution that places singular importance upon the quality of graduate education and postdoctoral training. As Associate Provost (Graduate Education), as well as Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, I work closely with the Faculties, central administration, graduate students, professors, researchers, and postdoctoral fellows to provide a supportive, stimulating, and enriching academic environment for all graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

McGill is ranked as one of Canada's most intensive research universities and currently ranked 21st by *QS World University Rankings 2013*. We recognize that these successes come not only from our outstanding faculty members, but also from the quality of our graduate students and postdoctoral fellows—a community into which we are very happy to welcome you.

I invite you to join us in advancing this heritage of excellence at McGill.

Martin Kreiswirth, Ph.D.

Associate Provost (Graduate Education)

Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

2 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

2.1 Administrative Officers

Administrative Officers

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Note: For inquiries regarding specific graduate programs, please contact the appropriate department.

2.3 General Statement Concerning Higher Degrees

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) oversees all programs leading to graduate diplomas, certificates, and higher degrees, with the exception of some programs in the School of Continuing Studies. It is responsible for admission policies, the supervision of graduate students' work, and for recommending to Senate those who may receive the degrees, diplomas, and certificates.

3 Important Dates 2014–2015

For all dates relating to the academic year, consult www.mcgill.ca/importantdates.

4 Graduate Studies at a Glance

Please refer to the eCalendar's *University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > Graduate Studies at a Glance* for a list of all graduate departments and degrees currently being offered.

5 Program Requirements

5.1 Master's Degrees

Residence Requirements – Master's Degrees

Refers to the number of terms (or years) students must be registered on a full-time basis to complete their program. Students are NOT permitted to graduate until they have fulfilled the residence requirement (or paid the corresponding fees) in their program.

- The following master's programs have a **minimum** residence requirement of **three full-time terms**: M.Arch., M.A., M.Eng., LL.M., M.Mus. (**except** M.Mus. in Sound Recording), M.Sc., M.S.W., M.Sc.A. (**except** M.Sc.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders).
- The following master's programs have a **minimum** residence requirement of **four full-time terms**: M.I.St.; M.Mus. in Sound Recording; M.U.P.; M.A. (60 credits – Counselling Psychology – thesis; 78 credits – Educational Psychology); M.A. Teaching and Learning – Non-Thesis; M.Sc.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders; S.T.M., Religious Studies.
- The residence requirement for the master's program in Education (M.Ed.); Information Studies (M.I.St.); Management (M.B.A.); Religious Studies (S.T.M.); M.A. Counselling Psychology – Non-Thesis; M.A. Teaching and Learning – Non-Thesis; M.Sc. in Public Health – Non-Thesis; M.Sc.A. Nursing; M.Sc.A. Occupational Therapy; M.Sc.A. Physical Therapy; and students in part-time programs is determined on a per course basis. Residence requirements are fulfilled when students complete all course requirements in their respective programs.
- For master's programs structured as Course, Project, or Non-Thesis options where the program is pursued on a part-time basis, residence requirements are normally fulfilled when students complete all course requirements in their respective programs (minimum 45 credits or a minimum of three full-time terms) and pay the fees accordingly.

These designated periods of residence represent minimum time requirements. There is no guarantee that the work for the degree can be completed in this time. Students must register for such additional terms as are needed to complete the program.

Coursework – Master's Degrees

Program requirements are outlined in the relevant departmental sections of the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies *eCalendar*.

The department concerned will examine the student's previous training and then decide which of the available courses in the area of specialization or related fields are required to bring the candidate to the proper level for the master's degree. Due account will be taken of relevant courses passed at any recognized university.

As a rule, no more than one-third of the McGill program formal coursework (not thesis, project, stage, or internship) can be credited with courses from another university.

Non-thesis degrees normally specify the course program which the candidate must follow.

The candidate is required to pass, with a grade of B- or better, all those courses that have been designated by the department as forming a part of the program, including additional requirements.

Students taking courses at another university must obtain a minimum grade of B- (65%) if the course is to be credited toward their McGill degree. In the cases where only a letter grade is used, a B- is the minimum passing grade and no equivalent percentage will be considered. In the cases where only a percentage grade is used, 65% is the minimum passing grade.

If courses were not used for a degree, they could be **credited** toward a McGill degree, keeping in mind that a maximum of one-third of the coursework (not thesis, project, stage, internship, and practicum) can be credited. If an **exemption** is granted, it must be replaced by another graduate course at McGill toward the degree. No double counting is ever allowed. This regulation also applies to doctoral programs.

Research and Thesis – Master's Degrees

All candidates for a research degree must present a thesis based on their own research. The total number of credits allotted to the thesis in any master's program must not be less than 24. The title of the thesis and names of examiners must be forwarded on a *Nomination of Examiners* form, in accordance with the dates on www.mcgill.ca/importantdates, through the Chair of the department concerned at the same time that the thesis is submitted to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. A thesis for the master's degree, while not necessarily requiring an exhaustive review of work in the particular field of study, or a great deal of original scholarship, must show familiarity with previous work in the field and must demonstrate the ability to carry out research and to organize results, all of which must be presented in good literate style. The thesis will not normally exceed 100 pages; in some disciplines, shorter texts are preferred. Guidelines and deadlines are available at www.mcgill.ca/gps/thesis/guidelines.

Language Requirements – Master's Degrees

Many master's degree programs do not include language requirements, but candidates who intend to proceed to a doctoral degree should take note of any language requirements and are strongly advised to take the examinations in at least one language while working for the master's degree.

5.2 Doctoral Degrees

Residence Requirements – Doctoral

Refers to the numbers of terms (or years) students must be registered on a full-time basis to complete their program. Students are not permitted to graduate until they have fulfilled the residence requirement (or paid the corresponding fees) in their program.

Candidates entering Ph.D. 1 must follow a program of at least three years' residency at the University; this is a minimum requirement, and there is no guarantee that the work of the degree can be completed in this time, but students are expected to complete within the maximum specified period. Only exceptional candidates holding a bachelor's degree will be considered for direct admission to Ph.D. 1 level.

It is required that candidates spend the greater part of each summer working on their theses, and those who do not do so are unlikely to complete a satisfactory thesis in the prescribed minimum time (see [section 8.3: Vacation Policy for Graduate Students and Postdocs](#)).

A student who has obtained a master's degree at McGill University or at an approved institution in a relevant subject and is proceeding to a Ph.D. degree will, on the recommendation of the department, be admitted to Ph.D. 2; in this case, the residency requirement for the program is two years.

In the doctoral program, students must be registered on a full-time basis for one more year after completion of the residency (i.e., Ph.D. 4 year) before continuing as Additional Session students until completion of the program.



Note: The master's degree must have been awarded before initial registration in the doctoral program; otherwise, the admission level will be at Ph.D. 1 and residency will be extended to three years. Once the level of admission is approved, it will not be changed after obtaining the master's degree if the date falls after registration in the program. If a previous awarded degree is a condition of admission, it must be fulfilled before registration in another program.

As a rule, no more than one-third of the McGill program formal coursework can be credited with courses from another university.

Comprehensive Examinations – Doctoral

The majority of doctoral programs at McGill require candidates to pass a comprehensive examination or set of examinations or equivalent, such as qualifying examinations, preliminary examinations, candidacy papers, comprehensive evaluations, thesis proposals, etc. The results of this examination determine whether or not students will be permitted to continue in their programs. The methods adopted for examination and evaluation and the areas to be examined are specified by departmental regulations and approved by Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of these details. For more information, see the [eCalendar](#) under *University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > Guidelines and Policies > : Ph.D. Comprehensives Policy*.

Language Requirements – Doctoral

Many graduate departments in the Faculties of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Education, Engineering, Management, Medicine, and Science do not require a language examination. Students should inquire in their departments if there are any such requirements, or whether any other requirements have been substituted for those relating to languages.

Graduate departments in the Faculties of Arts, Music, and Religious Studies usually require proficiency in one or two languages other than English. In all cases, **students should consult departmental regulations concerning language requirements**.

Language requirements for the Ph.D. degree are met through demonstrated reading knowledge. The usual languages are French, German, or Russian, but in particular instances another language may be necessary.

All language requirements must be fulfilled and the grades reported **before** submission of the thesis to GPS (Thesis section).

Students must contact their departments to make arrangements to take the Language Reading Proficiency Examinations. Students may, however, demonstrate competence by a pass standing in two undergraduate language courses taken at McGill (see departmental regulations).

Candidates are advised to discharge their language requirements as early in their program as possible.

Students expecting to enrol in Professional Corporations in the province of Quebec are advised to become fluent in both spoken and written French.

French language courses are available at the French Language Centre. The teaching is intensive and class sizes are kept small. While undergraduate students are given preference, graduate students who are certain they can devote sufficient time to the work may enrol.

Thesis – Doctoral

The thesis for the Ph.D. degree must display original scholarship expressed in good literate style and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge. **Formal notice of a thesis title and names of examiners must be submitted to the Thesis section of GPS on the *Nomination of Examiners* form in accordance with the dates on www.mcgill.ca/importantdates, at the same time as the thesis is submitted.** The list of examiners must be approved by the Department Chair, the supervisor and the student. The Thesis section of GPS should be notified of any subsequent change of title as early as possible. Guidelines and deadlines are available at www.mcgill.ca/gps/thesis/guidelines.

Special regulations for the Ph.D. degree in particular departments are stated in the entries of those departments.

Thesis Oral Examination – Doctoral

After the thesis has been received and approved, a final oral examination is held on the subject of the thesis and subjects intimately related to it. This is conducted in the presence of a Committee of at least five members presided over by a Pro-Dean nominated by Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The Chair of the candidate's department and the Thesis Supervisor are regularly invited to be members of the Committee; at least one member of the Committee is appointed from outside the candidate's department. Guidelines are available at www.mcgill.ca/gps/thesis/guidelines.

5.3 Ad Personam Programs (Thesis Option Only)

In very rare circumstances, an applicant who wishes to engage in Master's (thesis option only) or Ph.D. studies of an interdisciplinary nature involving joint supervision by two departments, each of which is authorized by the Government of Quebec to offer its own graduate programs, may be admitted to an *Ad Personam* program. For more information, see www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/programs and contact the relevant department.

5.4 Coursework for Graduate Programs, Diplomas, and Certificates

Upper-level undergraduate courses (excluding 500-level) may not be considered for degrees, diplomas, and certificates unless they are already listed as required courses in the approved program description. If an upper-level undergraduate course (excluding 500 level) is taken by a graduate student, it must come as a recommendation from the Graduate Program Director in the department. The recommendation must state if the undergraduate course is an additional requirement for the program (must obtain B- or better) or if the course is extra to the program (will be flagged as such on the record and fees will be charged). See document at www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/registration#courseereg.

English and French language courses offered by the French Language Centre (Faculty of Arts) or the School of Continuing Studies may not be taken for coursework credits toward a graduate program.

All substitutions for coursework in graduate programs, diplomas, and certificates must be approved by GPS.

Courses taken at other institutions to be part of the requirements of a program of study must be approved by GPS before registration. Double counting is not permitted.

6 Graduate Admissions and Application Procedures

Please refer to the eCalendar's *University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > : Graduate Admissions and Application Procedures* for information on:

- Application for Admission
- Admission Requirements
- Application Procedures
- Competency in English

and other important information regarding admissions and application procedures for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

7 Fellowships, Awards, and Assistantships

Please refer to the eCalendar's *University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > : Fellowships, Awards, and Assistantships* for information and contact information regarding fellowships, awards, and assistantships in Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

8 Postdoctoral Research

Students must inform themselves of University rules and regulations and keep abreast of any changes that may occur. The *Postdoctoral Research* section of this publication contains important details required by postdoctoral scholars during their studies at McGill and should be periodically consulted, along with other sections and related publications.

8.1 Postdocs

Postdocs are recent graduates with a Ph.D. or equivalent (i.e., Medical Specialist Diploma) engaged by a member of the University's academic staff, including Adjunct Professors, to assist him/her in research.

Postdocs must be appointed by their department and registered with Enrolment Services in order to have access to University facilities (library, computer, etc.).

8.2 Guidelines and Policy for Academic Units on Postdoctoral Education

The general guidelines listed below are meant to encourage units to examine their policies and procedures to support postdoctoral education. Every unit hosting Postdocs should have explicitly stated policies and procedures for the provision of postdoctoral education as well as established means for informing Postdocs of policies, procedures, and privileges (e.g., orientation sessions, handbooks, etc.), as well as mechanisms for addressing complaints. Academic units should ensure that their policies, procedures and privileges are consistent with these guidelines and the Charter of Students' Rights. For their part, Postdocs are responsible for informing themselves of policies, procedures, and privileges.

1. Definition and Status

i. Postdoctoral status will be recognized by the University in accordance with Quebec provincial regulations. Persons may only be registered with postdoctoral status for a period of up to five years from the date they were awarded a Ph.D. or equivalent degree. Time allocated to parental or health leave is added to this period of time. Leaves for other reasons, including vacation leave, do not extend the term. Postdocs must do research under the supervision of a McGill professor, including Adjunct Professors, who is a member of McGill's academic staff qualified in the discipline in which training is being provided and with the abilities to fulfil responsibilities as a supervisor of the research and as a mentor for career development. They are expected to be engaged primarily in research with minimal teaching or other responsibilities.

2. Registration

i. Postdocs must be registered annually with the University through Enrolment Services. Initial registration will require an original or notarized copy of the Ph.D. diploma. Registration will be limited to persons who fulfil the definition above and for whom there is an assurance of appropriate funding and where the unit can provide assurance of the necessary resources to permit postdoctoral education.

ii. Upon registration, the Postdoc will be eligible for a University identity card issued by Enrolment Services.

3. Appointment, Pay, Agreement of Conditions

i. Appointments may not exceed your registration eligibility status.

ii. In order to be registered as a Postdoc, you must be assured of financial support other than from personal means during your stay at McGill University, equivalent to the minimal stipend requirement set by the University in accordance with guidelines issued by federal and provincial research granting agencies. There are no provisions for paid parental leave unless this is stipulated in the regulations of a funding agency outside the University.

iii. At the outset of a postdoctoral appointment, a written Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education should be drawn up and signed by the Postdoc, the supervisor, and the department head or delegate (see template Letter of Agreement and supporting document—*Commitments of Postdoctoral Scholars and Supervisors*—on the web at www.mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs/fellows/letter). This should stipulate, for example, the purpose of the postdoctoral appointment (research training and the advancement of knowledge), the duration of the fellowship/financial support, the modality of pay, the work space, travel funds, and expectations and compensation for teaching and student research supervision. Leaves from postdoctoral education must comply with the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Policies for Vacation, Parental/Familial, and Health Leave (see *section 8.3: Vacation Policy for Graduate Students and Postdocs* and the *eCalendar* under *University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > Regulations > Categories of Students > : Leave of Absence Status*). Any breach of these conditions may result in grievance procedures or the termination of the postdoctoral appointment.

iv. Postdocs with full responsibility for teaching a course should be compensated over and above their fellowship at the standard rate paid to lecturers by their department. This applies to all postdocs, except those for whom teaching is part of the award (e.g., Mellon grantees).

v. The amount of research, teaching, or other tasks that Postdocs engage in over and above postdoctoral activities should conform to the regulations for Postdocs specified by the Canadian research council of their discipline. This applies to all Postdocs, including those whose funding does not come from the Canadian research councils.

4. Privileges

- i. Postdocs have the same pertinent rights as the ones granted to McGill students in the *Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities* (“Green Book”), available at www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies/students.
- ii. Postdocs have full graduate student borrowing privileges in McGill libraries through their identity card.
- iii. As a rule, Postdocs who are Canadian citizens or who have Permanent Resident status may take courses for credit. Admission to such courses should be sought by submitting application documents directly to the appropriate program by the Postdoc. They must be admitted by the department offering the courses as Special Students. These Postdocs may only be enrolled as part-time students in non-degree granting programs. They will be charged fees for these courses.
- iv. Postdocs may be listed in the McGill directory. The Computing Centre will grant Postdocs email privileges on the same basis as graduate students upon presentation of a valid identity card.
- v. The Department of Athletics will grant Postdocs access to sports facilities upon presentation of their identity card. A fee will be charged on an annual or term basis.
- vi. Postdocs are mandatory members of the Post-Graduate Students’ Society (PGSS) and an annual association fee is automatically charged. PGSS fees are mandatory. Postdocs are permitted membership in the Faculty Club; an annual fee will be charged for this membership.
- vii. Postdocs are encouraged to participate in Professional Development Workshops provided by Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Teaching and Learning services. These sessions are usually free of charge.
- viii. Postdocs have access to the services provided by the Ombudsperson.
- ix. Postdocs may enrol as part-time students in the second language written and spoken English/French courses offered by the School of Continuing Studies/French Language Centre. Postdocs will be charged tuition for these courses. International Postdocs may be required to obtain a CAQ and a Study Permit.
- x. Access to student services and athletic services are available to the Postdoc on an opt-in basis. Fees are applicable.

5. Responsibilities

- i. Postdocs are subject to the responsibilities outlined in the *Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities* (“Green Book”), available at www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies/students.
- ii. Each academic unit hosting Postdocs should clearly identify Postdocs’ needs and the means by which they will be met by the unit.
- iii. Each academic unit should assess the availability of research supervision facilities, office space, and research funding before recruiting Postdocs.
- iv. Some examples of responsibilities of the department are:
 - to verify the Postdoc’s eligibility period for registration;
 - to provide Postdocs with departmental policy and procedures that pertain to them;
 - to oversee the registration and appointment of Postdocs;
 - to assign departmental personnel (e.g., Postdoc coordinator and Graduate Program Director) the responsibility for Postdocs;
 - to oversee and sign off on the Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education;
 - to ensure that each Postdoc has a supervisor, lab and/or office space, access to research operating costs and necessary equipment;
 - to include Postdocs in departmental career and placement opportunities;
 - to refer Postdocs to the appropriate University policies and personnel for the resolution of conflict that may arise between a Postdoc and a supervisor.
- v. Some examples of responsibilities of the supervisor are:
 - to uphold and transmit to their Postdocs the highest professional standards of research and/or scholarship;
 - to provide research guidance;
 - to meet regularly with their Postdocs;
 - to provide feedback on research submitted by the Postdocs;
 - to clarify expectations regarding intellectual property rights in accordance with the University’s policy;
 - to provide mentorship for career development;
 - to prepare, sign, and adhere to a Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education.
- vi. Some examples of responsibilities of Postdocs are:
 - to inform themselves of and adhere to the University’s policies and/or regulations for Postdocs for leaves, for research, and for student conduct as outlined in the *Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities* and the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies *University Regulations and Resources*;
 - to submit a complete file for registration to Enrolment Services;
 - to sign and adhere to their Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education;
 - to communicate regularly with their supervisor;
 - to inform their supervisor of their absences.
- vii. Some examples of the responsibilities of the University are:

- to register Postdocs;
- to provide an appeal mechanism in cases of conflict;
- to provide documented policies and procedures to Postdocs;
- to provide Postdocs with the necessary information on McGill University student services.

Approved by Senate, April 2000; revised May 2014

8.3 Vacation Policy for Graduate Students and Postdocs

Graduate students and Postdocs should normally be entitled to vacation leave equivalent to university holidays and an additional total of fifteen (15) working days in the year. Funded students and Postdocs with fellowships and research grant stipends taking additional vacation leave may have their funding reduced accordingly.

Council of FGSR April 23, 1999

8.4 Leave of Absence for Health and Parental/Familial Reasons

A leave of absence may be granted for maternity or parental reasons or for health reasons (see the [eCalendar](#) under *University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > : Leave of Absence Status*).

Such a leave must be requested on a term-by-term basis and may be granted for a period of up to 52 weeks. Students and Postdocs must make a request for such a leave in writing to their department and submit a medical certificate. The department shall forward the request to Enrolment Services. See the procedure in the [eCalendar](#) under *University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > : Leave of Absence Status*. Students who have been granted such a leave will have to register for the term(s) in question and their registration will show as “leave of absence” on their record. No tuition fees will be charged for the duration of the authorized leave. Research supervisors are not obligated to remunerate students and Postdocs on leave. GPS has prepared a summary table of various leave policies (paid or unpaid) for students and Postdocs paid from the Federal and Quebec Councils through fellowships or research grants. The document is available at www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding/students-postdocs/accepting-maintaining-awards#poli under “Leave Policies - Funding Council Leave Policies for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows.”

8.5 Postdoctoral Research Trainees

Eligibility

If your situation does not conform to the Government of Quebec's definition of Postdoctoral Fellow, you may be eligible to attend McGill as a Postdoctoral Research Trainee. While at McGill, you can perform research only (you may not register for courses or engage in clinical practice). Medical specialists who will have clinical exposure and require a training card must register through Postgraduate Medical Education of the Faculty of Medicine—not Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

The category of Postdoctoral Research Trainee is for:

Category 1: An individual who has completed requirements for the Doctoral degree or medical specialty, but the degree/certification has not yet been awarded. The individual will subsequently be eligible for registration as a Postdoctoral Fellow.

Category 2: An individual who is not eligible for Postdoctoral Registration according to the Government of Quebec's definition, but is a recipient of an external postdoctoral award from a recognized Canadian funding agency.

Category 3: An individual who holds a professional degree (or equivalent) in a regulated health profession (as defined under CIHR-eligible health profession) and is enrolled in a program of postgraduate medical education at another institution. The individual wishes to conduct the research stage or elective component of his/her program of study at McGill University under the supervision of a McGill professor. The individual will be engaged in full-time research with well-defined objectives, responsibilities, and methods of reporting. The application must be accompanied by a letter of permission from the home institution (signed by the Department Chair, Dean or equivalent) confirming registration in their program and stating the expected duration of the research stage. Individuals who are expecting to spend more than one year are encouraged to obtain formal training (master's or Ph.D.) through application to a relevant graduate program.

Category 4: An individual with a regulated health professional degree (as defined under CIHR-eligible health profession), but not a Ph.D. or equivalent or medical specialty training, but who fulfils criteria for funding on a tri-council operating grant or by a CIHR fellowship (up to maximum of five years post-degree).



Note: Individuals who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents must inquire about eligibility for a work permit.

General Conditions

- The maximum duration is three years;

- the individual must be engaged in full-time research;
- the individual must provide copies of official transcripts/diploma;
- the individual must have the approval of a McGill professor to supervise the research and of the Unit;
- the individual must have adequate proficiency in English, but is not required to provide official proof of English competency to Enrolment Services;
- the individual must comply with regulations and procedures governing research ethics and safety and obtain the necessary training;
- the individual will be provided access to McGill libraries, email, and required training in research ethics and safety. Any other University services must be purchased (e.g., access to athletic facilities);
- the individual must arrange for basic health insurance coverage prior to arrival at McGill and may be required to provide proof of coverage.

9 Graduate Studies Guidelines and Policies

Refer to the [eCalendar](#) under *University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > : Guidelines and Policies* for information on the following:

- Guidelines and Regulations for Academic Units on Graduate Student Advising and Supervision
- Policy on Graduate Student Research Progress Tracking
- Ph.D. Comprehensives Policy
- Graduate Studies Reread Policy
- Failure Policy
- Guideline on Hours of Work

10 Information on Research Policies and Guidelines, Patents, Postdocs, Associates, Trainees

Refer to the [eCalendar](#) under *University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > : Research Policy and Guidelines, Patents, Postdocs, Associates, Trainees* for information on the following:

- Policy on Research Ethics
- Regulations on Research Policy
- Policy on Research Integrity
- Guidelines for Research Involving Human Subjects
- Guidelines for Research with Animal Subjects
- Policy on Intellectual Property
- Regulations Governing Conflicts of Interest
- Safety in Field Work
- Office of Sponsored Research
- Postdocs
- Research Associates

11 Academic Programs

The programs and courses in the following sections have been approved for the 2014–2015 session as listed. The Faculty/School reserves the right to introduce changes as may be deemed necessary or desirable at any time throughout the year.

11.1 Religious Studies

11.1.1 Location

Faculty of Religious Studies
William and Henry Birks Building
3520 University Street
Montreal QC H3A 2A7
Canada

Telephone: 514-398-4121

Fax: 514-398-6665

Website: www.mcgill.ca/religiousstudies

11.1.2 About Religious Studies

The Faculty of Religious Studies offers programs leading to the degrees of Master of Arts (M.A.) (Thesis and Non-Thesis), Master of Arts (M.A.) (Thesis) with specialization in Bioethics, Master of Arts (M.A.) (Thesis) with option in Gender and Women's Studies, Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). An interdisciplinary option in Gender and Women's Studies is also available for doctoral students.

The areas of graduate specializations of our world-renowned Faculty are: Hebrew Bible and/or Old Testament Studies; Early Judaism; Greco-Roman Judaism; New Testament and Early Christianity; Church History; Christian Theology; Philosophy of Religion; Religious Ethics; Biomedical Ethics; Hinduism; and Buddhism. The many different areas of research interest among members of the Faculty frequently require the hiring of graduate students as research assistants, especially as the Faculty is so successful in gaining research grants. The Faculty also seeks to train young scholars in the art of lecturing/teaching; to this end it has created opportunities for Ph.D. students to teach courses in the summer and permits M.A. and Ph.D. students to work as teaching assistants. The individual programs are described below.

Adequate library facilities are available in the William and Henry Birks Building and elsewhere in the University for the courses listed, and for research.

Language Requirements

The Faculty of Religious Studies offers courses in primary text source languages, such as Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, Biblical Greek, Sanskrit, Pali, Tamil, and classical literary Tibetan. The Faculty does not guarantee instruction in any languages other than those mentioned above. Therefore, if a student wishes to have a language such as French, German, or Japanese counted as a second language, instruction may have to be sought outside the Faculty. The successful completion of at least 12 credits at the post-secondary level in a language course, or successful completion of a language examination administered by the appropriate member of the Faculty, will constitute evidence of the student's having the required reading knowledge of the language in question.

- **M.A.**

Students are required to give their area committee evidence of reading knowledge of a scholarly language other than English. This language may be either a modern language in which there is a significant amount of scholarship relevant to the student's area of research, or a classical language relevant to the student's area of research. If a classical language is chosen, it must be in addition to any prerequisite language for the area in question.



Note: The M.A. with specialization in Bioethics has no language requirement.

- **Ph.D.**

Students are required to give their area committee evidence of reading knowledge of two languages other than English. These languages must be chosen from modern languages in which there is a significant amount of scholarship relevant to the student's area of research or classical languages relevant to the student's area of research.

Research in some disciplines, or on certain thesis topics, may require proficiency in more than two languages besides English. In that case, additional language requirements may be stipulated by the supervisor.

- **S.T.M.**

The S.T.M. program has no language requirement.

section 11.1.5: Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Thesis) (48 credits)

The purpose of the M.A. (Thesis) degree is to encourage advanced study and research in one of the disciplines of Religious Studies for those who wish to become scholars or teachers, or will be engaged in some field of religious or public service. The M.A. (Thesis) program in Religious Studies offers a specialization in Bioethics and an option in Gender and Women's Studies.

section 11.1.6: Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Thesis) — Bioethics (45 credits)

The M.A. (Thesis) with specialization in Bioethics is offered in conjunction with the Bioethics Unit. Please contact the Religious Studies Department or Bioethics Unit for more information about this specialization. The curriculum is composed of required courses (6 credits) offered in the Biomedical Ethics

section 11.1.6: Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Thesis) — Bioethics (45 credits)

Unit, Bioethics courses (6 credit minimum) offered by the base faculty or department, and any graduate course required or accepted by a base faculty for the granting of a master's degree, for a total of 21 credits. A minimum of 45 credits is required including the thesis.

section 11.1.7: Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Thesis) — Gender and Women's Studies (45 credits)

The graduate option in Gender and Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program for students who meet degree requirements in Religious Studies (and other participating departments and faculties) and who wish to focus on gender-related issues and feminist research and methodologies. Research focus is on a topic relating to gender issues or women's studies.

section 11.1.8: Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Non-Thesis) (45 credits)

The M.A. without thesis is intended to ensure a student's well-rounded exposure to several religions and to several of the disciplinary approaches currently used in their academic study. Particular to this program is its ability to provide the student with the opportunity to develop three different research papers with reference to the student's own interests in Religious Studies under the supervision of professors from various parts of the University.

section 11.1.9: Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.); Religious Studies (Non-Thesis) (48 credits)

The S.T.M. is meant for those who intend to enter the ministry of the Christian Church or another religious institution, or proceed to a teaching career or to some form of social work. This degree enables students to specialize in one area or discipline of the theological study before or after the third year of the M.Div. and is unique in Canada. The S.T.M. program is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada.

section 11.1.10: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Religious Studies

The purpose of the Ph.D. program is to engage students in advanced academic studies normally in preparation for an academic career. The community of graduate scholars in this program is engaged in a broad spectrum of critical research involving any number of interdisciplinary approaches conducted on a number of different religious traditions. The Faculty members are committed to the training of teaching scholars, making the Faculty of Religious Studies one of few schools that prioritizes offering graduate students opportunities under faculty supervision to teach/lecture during their time in the program.

section 11.1.11: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Religious Studies — Gender and Women's Studies

The graduate option in Gender and Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program for students meeting the degree requirements in Religious Studies who wish to focus on gender-related issues and feminist research and methodologies. Research focus is on a topic relating to gender issues or women's studies. Please contact the Department for more information about this option.

11.1.3 Religious Studies Admission Requirements and Application Procedures**11.1.3.1 Admission Requirements****Master of Arts (M.A.) Thesis**

Applicants must possess a B.A. with a Major or Honours in Religious Studies or a Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.), or a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree, normally with a minimum CGPA of 3.3/4.0 (B+) from an accredited university or college. Applicants with fewer than 30 appropriate credits in Religious Studies or Theology are normally required to take a Qualifying Program before entering the M.A.

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Religious Studies (Thesis) – Gender and Women's Studies Option/Concentration

The graduate option in Gender and Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program for students who meet degree requirements in Religious Studies (and other participating departments and faculties) who wish to focus on gender-related issues and feminist research and methodologies. Research focus is on a topic relating to gender issues or women's studies.

Master of Arts (M.A.) (Thesis) in Religious Studies with specialization in Bioethics

For information contact the Chair, Master's Specialization in Bioethics, Biomedical Ethics Unit, at:

3690 Peel Street
Montreal QC H3A 1W9
Telephone: 514-398-6980
Fax: 514-398-8349
Email: jennifer.fishman@mcgill.ca

Master of Arts (M.A.) (Non-Thesis)

Applicants must possess a B.A. with a Major or Honours in Religious Studies or a Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.), or a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree, normally with a minimum CGPA of 3.3/4.0 (B+) from an accredited university or college. Applicants with fewer than 30 appropriate credits in Religious Studies or Theology are normally required to take a Qualifying Program before entering the M.A.

Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.)

Applicants must possess a B.A., normally with at least a good second-class standing (B+ or CGPA 3.3/4.0), in a major or honours program in religious studies or theology from an accredited university or college. Those who have a McGill B.Th. or an equivalent degree in addition to a B.A. degree with a second-class standing may be admitted to the second year of the S.T.M. program.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Entry into the doctoral program is limited to applicants who have earned an academic master's degree in religious studies or theology in a recognized graduate program, or those who have finished the course requirements of such a program with a minimum CGPA of 3.5/4.0.

Advanced Standing (Ph.D. 2) may be granted if the completed master's-level work including a thesis is in the same area as that of the intended doctoral specialization and involved not less than six (6) courses (18 credits).

It is recommended that a foreign language related to the area of study be included in the bachelor's or master's work preceding doctoral study.

Applicants for doctoral programs are requested to submit a substantial sample of their scholarly writing (15–20 pages) with their application. The application should specify one of the specializations listed in [section 11.1.2: About Religious Studies](#).

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Religious Studies – Gender and Women's Studies Option/Concentration

The graduate option in Gender and Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program for students who meet the degree requirements in Religious Studies who wish to focus on gender-related issues and feminist research and methodologies. Research focus is on a topic relating to gender issues or women's studies.

11.1.3.2 Application Procedures

McGill's online application form for graduate program candidates is available at www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply.

See : [Application Procedures](#) for detailed application procedures.

11.1.3.2.1 Additional Requirements

The items and clarifications below are additional requirements set by this department:

- Personal Statement – approximately 500 words
- Written Work – recent academic writing

11.1.3.3 Application Deadlines

The application deadlines listed here are set by the Faculty of Religious Studies and may be revised at any time. Applicants must verify all deadlines and documentation requirements well in advance on the appropriate McGill departmental website; please consult the list at www.mcgill.ca/gps/contact/graduate-program.

Canadian	International	Special/Exchange/Visiting
Fall: March 15*	Fall: March 15*	Fall: March 15*
Winter: Sept. 15	Winter: Sept. 15	Winter: Sept. 15
Summer: N/A	Summer: N/A	Summer: N/A

Admission to graduate studies is competitive; accordingly, late and/or incomplete applications are considered only as time and space permit.

* For funding consideration, the application for September admission must be submitted by January 15.



Note: Applications for Winter term admission to the M.A. Bioethics option will not be considered.

11.1.4 Religious Studies Faculty

Dean, Faculty of Religious Studies

Ian Henderson (*Acting*)

Graduate Program Director

Patricia G. Kirkpatrick

Graduate Admissions Chair

Ian Henderson

Emeritus Professors

Gregory B. Baum; B.A.(McM.), M.A.(Ohio), D.Th.(Fribourg)

Emeritus Professors

Maurice Boutin; B.A., B.A., B.A.(Montr.), D.Th.(Munich) (*J.W. McConnell Professor of Philosophy of Religion*)
 Douglas J. Hall; B.A.(W. Ont.), M.Div., S.T.M., Th.D.(U.T.S., N.Y.), D.D.(Qu.), LL.D.(Wat.), D.D.(Presb. Coll.)
 Joseph C. McLelland; B.A.(McM.), M.A.(Tor.), B.D.(Knox, Tor.), Ph.D.(Edin.), D.D.(Montr. Dio. Coll.), D.D.(Knox, Tor.)
 Donna R. Runnalls; B.A.(Br. Col.), B.D.(McG.), Ph.D.(Tor.)
 Frederik Wisse; Ing.(Utrecht), B.A., B.D.(Calvin), Ph.D.(Claremont)
 Katherine K. Young; B.A.(Vermont), M.A.(Chic.), Ph.D.(McG.)

Professors

Douglas B. Farrow; B.R.E.(Providence), M.Div.(Grace), M.Th.(Regent), Ph.D.(Lond.)
 Torrance Kirby; B.A.(KCNS), M.A.(Dal.), D.Phil.(Oxf.)
 Gerbern S. Oegema; B.A., Th.D.(Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam), M.A., Ph.D.(Free Univ., Berlin), Dr. Theol. Habil(Tübingen)
 Arvind Sharma; B.A.(Allid.), M.A.(Syrac.), M.T.S., Ph.D.(Harv.) (*Henry Birks Professor of Comparative Religion*)

Associate Professors

Ellen B. Aitken; A.B.(Harv.), M.Div.(Univ. of the South), Th.D.(Harv.) (*In memoriam*)
 Lara Braitstein; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(McG.)
 Daniel Cere; B.A., M.A.(McG.), Ph.D.(C'dia)
 Gaëlle Fiasse; B.A., M.A., Ph.D.(Louvain) (*joint appt. with Philosophy*)
 Garth Green; B.A.(Ariz.), M.A.(Catholic Univ. of Louvain), M.A., Ph.D.(Boston)
 Ian H. Henderson; B.A.(Manit.), B.D.(St. And.), M.A.(McM.), D.Phil.(Oxf.)
 G. Victor Hori; B.A.(York), M.A.(Tor.), Ph.D.(Stan.)
 Patricia G. Kirkpatrick; B.A.(McG.), M.Th.(Lond.), D.Phil.(Oxf.), D.D.(Montr. Dio. Coll.)
 Davesh Soneji; B.A.(Manit.), Ph.D.(McG.)

Assistant Professors

Jim Kanaris; B.A.(C'dia), M.A., Ph.D.(McG.)
 Andrea M. Pinkney; B.A.(McG.), M.A.(UH Manoa), Ph.D.(Col.)

Numata Visiting Professor

Burkhard Scherer; M.A.(WWU Münster), Ph.D.(Groningen)

Adjunct Professors

George Di Giovanni; Barbara Galli; Hilliard T. Goldfarb; Alyson Huntly; Philip Joudrey; William Klempa; T. Jinpa Langri; Anne Leahy; Lucille Marr; Susan Palmer; Angelica Piché; Vanessa R. Sasson; John M. Simons; David Williams; Dale Woods

11.1.5 Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Thesis) (48 credits)

Thesis Courses (27 credits)

RELG 688	(3)	Thesis Research 1
RELG 689	(3)	Thesis Research 2
RELG 698	(9)	Thesis Research 3
RELG 699	(12)	Thesis Research 4

Required Course (3 credits)

RELG 645	(3)	Methods in Religious Studies
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Complementary Courses (15 credits)

15 credits selected from the 500- or 600-level courses accepted by the Faculty of Religious Studies for the granting of a master's degree.

Language Requirement

Students are required to give their area committee evidence of reading knowledge of a scholarly language other than English. This language may be either a modern language in which there is a significant amount of scholarship relevant to the student's area of research, or a classical language relevant to the student's area of research. If a classical language is chosen, it must be in addition to any prerequisite language for the area in question.

11.1.6 Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Thesis) — Bioethics (45 credits)**Thesis Courses (24 credits)**

BIOE 690	(3)	M.Sc. Thesis Literature Survey
BIOE 691	(3)	M.Sc. Thesis Research Proposal
BIOE 692	(6)	M.Sc. Thesis Research Progress Report
BIOE 693	(12)	M.Sc. Thesis

Required Courses (12 credits)

BIOE 680	(3)	Bioethical Theory
BIOE 681	(3)	Bioethics Practicum
RELG 571	(3)	Ethics, Medicine and Religion
RELG 645	(3)	Methods in Religious Studies

Complementary Courses (9 credits)

9 credits at the 500 or 600 level, deemed necessary or accepted by the base faculty for the granting of a master's degree, in consultation with the supervisor.

11.1.7 Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Thesis) — Gender and Women's Studies (45 credits)**Thesis Courses**

27 credits from:

RELG 688	(3)	Thesis Research 1
RELG 689	(3)	Thesis Research 2
RELG 698	(9)	Thesis Research 3
RELG 699	(12)	Thesis Research 4

Required Courses

6 credits from:

RELG 645	(3)	Methods in Religious Studies
WMST 601	(3)	Feminist Theories and Methods

Complementary Courses

12 credits selected from the 500- or 600-level courses accepted by the Faculty of Religious Studies for the granting of a master's degree. Must include within the 12 credits:

Either

WMST 602	(3)	Feminist Research Symposium
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or 3 credits of another 500- or 600-level course in Gender and Women's Studies.

11.1.8 Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Non-Thesis) (45 credits)

Research Project (9 credits)

RELG 660	(3)	M.A. Research Paper 1
RELG 661	(3)	M.A. Research Paper 2
RELG 662	(3)	M.A. Research Paper 3

Required Courses (6 credits)

RELG 555	(3)	Honours Seminar
RELG 645	(3)	Methods in Religious Studies

Complementary Courses (30 credits)

30 credits of courses selected from the 500- or 600-level courses accepted by the Faculty of Religious Studies for the granting of a master's degree.

Language Requirement

Students are required to give their area committee evidence of reading knowledge of a scholarly language other than English. This language may be either a modern language in which there is a significant amount of scholarship relevant to the student's area of research, or a classical language relevant to the student's area of research. If a classical language is chosen, it must be in addition to any prerequisite language for the area in question.

11.1.9 Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.); Religious Studies (Non-Thesis) (48 credits)

ATS Accreditation:

The S.T.M. program is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada.

The normal requirement is two years (of two terms each) of full-time study (or one year of full-time study for those admitted with advanced standing into S.T.M. 2), but the degree may, by permission, be taken on a part-time basis.

Note: Ordination requirements for S.T.M. graduates will normally involve a further year of professional pastoral studies (the In-Ministry Year) provided by the Montreal School of Theology affiliated with the Faculty of Religious Studies.

Students admitted to Year 1 are required to complete twelve one-term courses (36 credits) and pass four Area Studies courses (12 credits). Students admitted to Year 2 are required to complete six one-term courses (18 credits) and pass two Area Studies courses.

Required Courses (48 credits)

Year 1 entrants, 12 credits from the following courses:

Year 2 entrants, 6 credits from the following courses:

RELG 520	(3)	Biblical Theology
RELG 530	(3)	Church History
RELG 531	(3)	Christian Theology
RELG 540	(3)	Philosophy of Religion
RELG 541	(3)	Theological Ethics
RELG 550	(3)	Comparative Religion

Year 1 entrants: 12 credits of additional courses.

Year 2 entrants: 6 credits of additional courses.

Students who take the S.T.M. as part of their ordination requirements are to choose their courses in consultation with the Principal of the Theological College with which they are associated.

Course selection for all S.T.M. students needs the approval of the Chair of Religious Studies Graduate Committee.

Related courses are also available in other departments.

11.1.10 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Religious Studies

Thesis

A thesis for the doctoral degree must constitute original scholarship and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge. It must show familiarity with previous work in the field and must demonstrate ability to plan and carry out research, organize results, and defend the approach and conclusions in a scholarly manner. The research presented must meet current standards of the discipline; as well, the thesis must clearly demonstrate how the research advances knowledge in the field. Finally, the thesis must be written in compliance with norms for academic and scholarly expression and for publication in the public domain.

Required Courses

RELG 701	(0)	Major Comprehensive Examination
RELG 702	(0)	Minor Comprehensive Examination
RELG 703	(0)	Oral Comprehensive Examination

Candidates admitted to Ph.D. 1 take a minimum of six graduate seminars during their first year and four seminars during their Ph.D. 2 year; those admitted to Ph.D. 2 must take a minimum of four graduate seminars. If possible, two seminars should be in their area of specialization, and at least one should be at the 700 level.

Language Requirements

Students are required to give their area committee evidence of reading knowledge of two languages other than English. These languages must be chosen from modern languages in which there is a significant amount of scholarship relevant to the student's area of research, or from classical languages relevant to the student's area of research.

Research in some disciplines, or on certain thesis topics, may require proficiency in more than two languages besides English. In that case, additional language requirements may be stipulated by the supervisor.

Doctoral Colloquium

As one of their requirements, all Ph.D. students in residence shall attend the monthly graduate colloquium, at which time a student's thesis project is formally presented and discussed. Each student is required to present an aspect of his or her thesis research to a meeting of the Doktorklub before the thesis is submitted.

11.1.11 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Religious Studies — Gender and Women's Studies

Thesis

Presentation to Doktorklub of student's thesis research.

A thesis for the doctoral degree must constitute original scholarship and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge. It must show familiarity with previous work in the field and must demonstrate ability to plan and carry out research, organize results, and defend the approach and conclusions in a scholarly manner. The research presented must meet current standards of the discipline; as well, the thesis must clearly demonstrate how the research advances knowledge in the field. Finally, the thesis must be written in compliance with norms for academic and scholarly expression and for publication in the public domain.

Required Courses

RELG 701	(0)	Major Comprehensive Examination
RELG 702	(0)	Minor Comprehensive Examination
RELG 703	(0)	Oral Comprehensive Examination
WMST 601	(3)	Feminist Theories and Methods
WMST 602	(3)	Feminist Research Symposium

Students admitted to Ph.D. 1

Students admitted to Ph.D. 1 take a minimum of six (3-credit) graduate seminars during their first year and a minimum of four (3-credit) graduate seminars in Ph.D. 2 including:

WMST 601	(3)	Feminist Theories and Methods
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WMST 602 (3) Feminist Research Symposium

and one 3-credit graduate seminar with a substantive focus on gender and/or women's studies.

One 3-credit graduate seminar must be at the 700 level.

Students entering into Ph.D. 2

Students entering into Ph.D. 2 are required to take a minimum of four (3-credit) graduate seminars including:

WMST 601 (3) Feminist Theories and Methods

WMST 602 (3) Feminist Research Symposium

and one 3-credit graduate seminar with a substantive focus on gender and/or women's studies.

One 3-credit graduate seminar must be at the 700 level.

Language Requirements

Modern and ancient languages as stipulated by field of study.