

# Graduate Programs

Section 400

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The graduate programs offered by the University are divided into doctoral, master's, diploma and certificate programs. Doctoral programs offer students the opportunity to carry out fundamental and applied research. The results of this research are presented in the form of a thesis containing an original contribution to knowledge. Master's and doctoral theses are defended in public examinations.

The length and specific format of a doctoral thesis is discipline dependent. All doctoral programs require the passing of comprehensive examinations and a minimum of 90 credits of study. At the master's level, the University offers a variety of thesis and non-thesis options. All master's programs require a minimum of 45 credits. Some master's programs also have a comprehensive examination.

The academic goals of the graduate diploma programs are different from those of doctoral and master's programs. They are designed either to offer a further specialization in a field or discipline already studied at the undergraduate level, or they provide the introduction to a new field of study or discipline, with the express intent to develop some level of specialized knowledge. A graduate diploma consists of a minimum of 30 credits and normally a maximum of 33 credits. Diploma programs do not require a thesis, although a graduating essay, project or report may be required.

Graduate certificates are designed to use existing departmental graduate resources to serve a professional clientele which is seeking an upgrading and advanced graduate training over a short time frame. The focus of the certificate program should be directed to the needs of the professional clientele; it will be specialized in scope rather than being of a general nature. A graduate certificate usually consists of 15 credits.

With the exception of a few cross-Faculty programs, all graduate programs offered by the University are administered by a particular academic department or program in one of the four Faculties of the University. All graduate programs are described in the Graduate Calendar. Each description outlines admission requirements, application procedures, degree requirements and program options. In most cases, courses are given in the late afternoon and evening, or in the evening only, making it possible for both full-time and part-time students to attend. Please contact the graduate program director for further information.

Students may choose to receive their degrees in either the gender neutral nomenclature of Baccalaureate, Magisteriate, and Doctorate or the traditional nomenclature of Bachelor, Master, and Doctor.

For a listing of graduate program directors and assistants, please visit: [concordia.ca/academics/graduate/program-contacts](http://concordia.ca/academics/graduate/program-contacts).

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