Graduate Programs

Section 300

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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The graduate programs offered by the University are divided into doctoral, master's, diploma, certificate, and micro 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.

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 typically consists of 30 credits. Diploma programs do not require a thesis, although a graduating essay, project or report may be required.

Graduate certificates are usually designed to use existing departmental graduate resources to serve a professional clientele who seek 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.

Micro programs are an organized group of courses and/or experiences between one and 14 credits that allow students to develop and document professional skills and competencies. These short courses of study verify, validate and attest that students have acquired specific skills and/or competencies.

With the exception of a few cross-Faculty programs (for example, Individualized Programs – "INDI" – and Humanities), 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, degree requirements and program options. Please contact the graduate program director for further information. Students may choose to receive their degrees in either the gender neutral nomenclature of Magisteriate and Doctorate or the traditional nomenclature of Master and Doctor.

For a listing of graduate program directors and assistants, please visit: concordia.ca/grad-contacts.