

Governor General's Gold medal

Concordia has received an additional Governor General Gold Medal to bring our total count to three. Because of this, we have re-examined the categories for which the medals are awarded. The original categories that were used were from the strategic directions from 13 years ago, and some were specific (synthetic biology, cyber security etc.). Now that we can award three medals, we have changed the categories to align with the tri-council agencies. This will align the GGGM categories with the categories for other awards from the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies as well as the l'Association des doyennes et des doyens des études supérieures au Québec (ADESAQ). By aligning the 3 medals with the tri-council agencies, more students at Concordia will be able to apply for these medals while applying for other prizes in similar categories compared to before. Starting in Fall 2025, the School of Graduate Studies will award one Gold Medal at the Fall Convocation and two Gold Medals at the Spring Convocation.

Spring Convocation two categories:

Category 1: CIHR

CIHR categorizes health research in four broad themes: bio-medical research; clinical research; research respecting health systems and services; and research into the health of populations, societal and cultural dimensions of health, and environmental influences on health. Four broad definitions of the CIHR themes are included below for reference purposes.

- **Bio-medical Research**
Research with the goal of understanding normal and abnormal human functioning, at the molecular, cellular, organ system and whole body levels, including development of tools and techniques to be applied for this purpose; developing new therapies or devices that improve health or the quality of life of individuals, up to the point where they are tested on human subjects; studies on human subjects that do not have a diagnostic or therapeutic orientation.
- **Clinical Research**
Research with the goal of improving the diagnosis and treatment (including rehabilitation and palliation) of disease and injury; improving the health and quality of life of individuals as they pass through normal life stages; research on, or for the treatment of, patients.
- **Health Services Research**
Research with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health professionals and the health care system, through changes to practice and policy. Health services research is a multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviours affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and, ultimately, Canadians' health and well-being.
- **Social, Cultural, Environmental and Population Health**
Research with the goal of improving the health of the Canadian population, or of defined

sub-populations, through a better understanding of the ways in which social, cultural, environmental, occupational and economic factors determine health status.

Category 2: SSHRC

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funds research and training in the social sciences and humanities, which broadly includes disciplines that study human society, culture, behavior, and thought. Below is a list of the core disciplines and interdisciplinary areas SSHRC typically supports:

Major SSHRC-Funded Disciplines

Social Sciences

- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Criminology
- Demography
- Economics (theoretical, historical, or policy-focused; not applied business)
- Geography (social/human)
- Political Science
- Psychology (social, developmental, and historical—not clinical or neuroscience)
- Sociology
- Social Work
- Urban and Regional Studies

Humanities

- History
- Philosophy
- Literature and Literary Studies (English, French, Indigenous, Comparative, etc.)
- Languages and Linguistics
- Cultural Studies
- Religious Studies
- Classics
- Communication and Media Studies
- Art History

- Musicology
- Theatre, Film, and Performance Studies

Education & Law

- Education (pedagogy, curriculum studies, educational policy)
- Law (legal theory, history of law, sociology of law—*but not practicing law or casework*)

Business & Management Studies (if non-applied)

- Organizational Theory
- Business Ethics
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Indigenous Governance or Management Practices
(*Applied or technical business topics usually fall under CIHR or NSERC*)

Interdisciplinary Fields Funded by SSHRC

SSHRC is open to interdisciplinary projects as long as the primary research question is grounded in social sciences or humanities. Examples include:

- Indigenous Studies
- Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Migration and Diaspora Studies
- Environmental Studies (human/policy/cultural dimensions)
- Digital Humanities
- Science and Technology Studies (STS)
- Health Policy (if focused on societal or cultural impacts)

Fall Convocation one category:

Category: NSERC

NSERC supports research whose major challenges lie in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE), other than the health sciences (NOTE: this description is written to explain to researchers and applicants what is included in the NSERC mandate but also what is not included). Research primarily in the NSE that advances NSE knowledge is eligible for NSERC support, even if it may have potential future applications in human health - such as diagnosis or treatment. Research that includes the use of methodologies, tools, techniques and knowledge from the NSE are not automatically considered eligible. Additionally, research involving clinical trials or research

related to human health or nutrition that focuses on collecting data to support regulatory requirements or marketing needs is not eligible.

Research in animal health and veterinary medicine is eligible. The following guidelines apply to the eligibility of research in *human* health. The research areas that follow are not mutually exclusive; therefore, the definitions are intended as guides.

Fundamental Processes in Humans (for all research disciplines):

Research seeking to further our understanding of fundamental processes in humans is eligible for NSERC support. Research with disease-related goals - including work on the etiology, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of physical or mental disease, abnormality, or dysfunction in humans - is normally not eligible. Research within a state of disease or dysfunction may be eligible when the primary objective is to understand the functioning of the healthy state.

While the development of animal models of human disease or dysfunction is not eligible for support, the use of such animal models may be eligible when the primary objective is to understand the functioning of the healthy state.

The use of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) to investigate fundamental mechanisms is eligible.

Human performance research in the healthy state - including physiology, kinesiology, biochemistry, psychology, etc. - is normally eligible. Human performance research within a state of disease, injury or dysfunction - such as recovery, therapy or rehabilitation - is not normally eligible.

Pharmaceuticals, Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods:

NSERC does not support research whose main focus is screening for substances - such as nutrients, nutraceuticals or potential active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) - or determining or validating the bioactivity, clinical effects, pharmacokinetics, toxicity, safety, adverse events, or efficacy of those substances.

Research related to developing novel ways of synthesizing APIs and analogs, scaling up production of new APIs, and research including bio-assays conducted strictly for the purpose of validating the development strategies, may be supported.

Research related to food components, nutraceuticals, or functional foods is eligible if it aims to elucidate the mechanism of action of a dietary component purported to affect a specific structure or physiological function. Also eligible is research focusing on novel ways of obtaining or producing an ingredient known for its health benefits, the role of a nutrient in a product matrix, or the manufacturing process of a new product that contains such an ingredient.

Medical Devices and Technologies:

Natural sciences and engineering research whose primary purpose is the development of medical devices - including monitoring and diagnostic technologies (e.g., health IT, in vitro

diagnostics, diagnostic imaging, patient monitoring, endoscopic devices) - and devices for treating a disease or physical condition (e.g., orthosis/prosthesis, in vitro reagent) is eligible, unless it is at the validation stage (i.e., pre-clinical in vivo testing, reliability testing, comparison studies and clinical trials).

Governor General Gold Medal Eligibility and Criteria

Eligibility: Each Faculty may submit a maximum of two nominations, and INDI may submit a maximum of one nomination. To be eligible for the Spring competition, applicants must have had their dissertation under the respective category and completed with either an excellent or outstanding thesis ranking and accepted by the School of Graduate Studies between April 1st (past year) and April 1st (current year). To be eligible for the fall competition, applicants must have had their dissertation under the respective category and completed with either an excellent or outstanding thesis ranking and accepted by the School of Graduate Studies between September 1st (past year) and September 1st (current year).

Criteria Sections:

- 1 – Grades (graduate level only)
- 2 – Awards and distinctions (graduate level only)
- 3 – Thesis or research creation activity evaluation
- 4 – Publications, exhibitions etc.
- 5 – Faculty letter of support

The gold medal is awarded to the student who achieves the highest academic standing at the graduate level. The student and the application are evaluated for academic excellence. The criteria are not listed in order of preference.

Documentation:

- 1 – Student's graduate transcript
- 2 – Curriculum Vitae
- 3 – Publications, exhibitions, and conference presentations should be provided with proper documentation
- 4 – Reasoned statement of Faculty support to be submitted by the Faculty Dean's Office; this should include a description of the academic excellence of the student and the contribution to knowledge
- 5 – Thesis examiners' evaluation reports
- 6 – Thesis external examiners' CV

Deadline:

We request that the Faculty Deans establish an internal deadline date for departments to submit nominations to their respective Faculties and to kindly notify departmental Chairs, GPDS, and GPAs of the deadline date and the process for submission. The Faculty's deadline to submit to the School of Graduate Studies is embedded in the call for the nomination email.

Governor General's Gold medal award committee:

SGS has a prize committee that is comprised of 4 members, one member from each faculty and is chaired by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. The committee will rank and select the winner from the faculty nominations.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD

NOMINATION PACKAGE

Candidate's Application: "Student's Full Name"

Faculty: "Enter Faculty"

Department of "Enter Department"

PhD "Enter Degree"

Thesis Title: "Enter Thesis Title"

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. "Enter Supervisor's Full Name"

Thesis Supervisor's Department: "Enter Supervisor's Department"

ID Number: "Enter Student's ID"

Doc 1

Student's graduate transcript

[insert on the following page]

Doc 2

**Curriculum vitae,
candidates must clearly
identify refereed publications**

[insert on the following page]

Doc 3

Publications, exhibitions, and conference presentations should be provided with proper documentation (indicate the impact factor of journals)

[insert on the following page]

Doc 4

Reasoned statement of Faculty support to be submitted by the Faculty Dean's Office; this should include a description of the quality of the student and of the student's contribution to the discipline, and to knowledge generally

[insert on the following page]

Doc 5

Thesis examiners' evaluation reports

[insert on the following page]

Doc 6

Thesis external examiner's CV

[insert on the following page]