

Graduate Student Handbook

Department of Indigenous Studies



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

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Section 1: Welcome to the Department of Indigenous Studies

The idea for a Native Studies Department at the University of Saskatchewan was first put forward by the hard work and foresight of the students from the Métis Local 126 (University) in 1978-1979. As a result, in 1982 the Native Studies Program was formally introduced, and the Department of Native Studies was created in 1983. In 2015, the name changed to Indigenous Studies to better reflect the department's international perspective. Today, Indigenous Studies faculty members are active leaders in innovative and transformative teaching and research with community partners on and off campus at the local, regional, national, and international levels. We are recognized internationally for our dedication and commitment to the empowerment of Indigenous communities; applied community-engaged research; a cutting-edge academic program grounded in Indigenous perspectives; and the pursuit of scholarly excellence of our students and faculty. The Indigenous Studies Department is central to the life and vitality of the University of Saskatchewan and upholds the pillars of innovation, Aboriginal engagement, research and internationalization. The Department of Indigenous Studies serves and engages with Indigenous communities and societies at large, at the local, regional, national and international levels. Indigenous Studies is committed to:

- Indigenous perspectives grounded in Indigenous experiences, knowledges, ways of knowing, and histories;
- Capacity building by enhancing healthy and sustainable Indigenous communities, knowledge systems, and environments;
- Graduating Indigenous Studies students with relevant and innovative skills, insight, and commitment to social justice and transformation;
- Excellence in the scholarly activities of teaching, critical analysis, applied and community-based research;
- Knowledge translation that results in the betterment of relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples;
- Transformative applied, comparative, and innovative research, community service, and teaching that impacts policy and practice, and preserves and creates Indigenous knowledge.

Department Website: <http://artsandscience.usask.ca/indigenoustudies/>

1.1 Department Vision

Our Department is committed to a vision of Indigenous empowerment through supporting more expansive and innovative views on Indigenous Knowledges. We seek excellence in both conventional scholarship and to developing new and culturally appropriate methodologies and theories sourced in the Indigenous lives. To fulfil this vision, we commit to:

- The promotion of academic and teaching excellence;
- Encouraging the development of specific Indigenous Studies paradigms and theoretical frameworks;
- Fostering and conducting original scholarly research on Indigenous lives, and developing research skills relevant to the needs of Indigenous communities;
- The promotion and encouragement of Indigenous scholars and scholarship;
- Understanding and appreciating the nature of Indigenous societies and acknowledge the contribution of those societies to both the national and international communities;
- Fostering cultural awareness while simultaneously bridging the cultural gaps and challenging racial intolerance and stereotypes.

Section 2: Introduction to Graduate Studies in Indigenous Studies

In 1987, the department opened its graduate program and in 1989 graduated the first student with a Master's degree while the first PhD student graduated in 2005. Currently, the graduate program in Indigenous Studies at the University of Saskatchewan is a small and robust program with a strong reputation for producing excellent graduates. A tight knit and innovative program led by internationally renowned faculty, the graduate program encourages students to explore a wide variety of topics, theoretical issues, and methodological approaches. Areas of specialization include: health, politics and governance, law, gender, history, Indigenous knowledge, research methodologies, environmental planning and development, Cree language, culture, and history. Faculty members likewise represent a range of disciplines and have research interests in a number of geographic areas.

Our program is designed to provide comprehensive instruction in Indigenous Studies research, critical thinking, and community engagement. Students are encouraged to present papers at conferences and are aided in their preparation and publication. The program enhances teaching skills with teaching assistant positions and university-wide training workshops. The intimate nature of the program and the small number of students admitted creates an atmosphere where students have direct access to their advisors as well as other members of the faculty. By availing themselves of the faculty's expertise, graduate students broaden their experiences, gain new perspectives, and better prepare themselves for the rigors of academic life and the workforce.

In addition to competitive scholarships offered by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS), Indigenous Studies graduate students have access to funding through teaching and research assistantships, and graduate scholarships.

The department is seeking motivated students who are interested in studying with a dynamic faculty in what is now a rapidly growing graduate program.

Our website:

<https://artsandscience.usask.ca/indigenoustudies/graduates/welcome.php>

Contact information:

Graduate Chair

Department of Indigenous Studies

142 Kirk Hall, 117 Science Pl

University of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon, SK S7N 5C8

indigenous.studies@usask.ca

2.1 Admission

2.1.1 Criteria for Admission

2.1.2 Master of Arts

A four-year undergraduate degree in Indigenous Studies or equivalent. Students from social science or humanities areas, or from other fields where there has been a focus on Indigenous Peoples, will also be considered.

A cumulative weighted average of at least 70% (U of S grade system equivalent) in the last two years of study (e.g. 60 credit units) although the average GPA for successful applicants is usually over 80%.

Indigenous applicants are encouraged to identify their status, citizenship, membership or community connection.

Proof of English language proficiency will be required for international applicants and for applicants whose first language is not English.

2.1.3 Doctor of Philosophy

Master of Arts or equivalent in related field with a focus on Indigenous peoples from a recognized college or university.

A cumulative weighted average of at least 70% (U of S grade system equivalent) in the Master of Arts degree, although the average GPA for successful applicants is usually over 80%.

Indigenous applicants are encouraged to identify their status, citizenship, membership or community connection.

Proof of English language proficiency will be required for international applicants and for applicants whose first language is not English

The Department reserves the right to accept qualified candidates only when a supervisor in the appropriate research area is available and the University resources are deemed adequate for the student's stated research interests.

2.1.4 Department Procedures Regarding Admission

Applications for admission are adjudicated by members of the Graduate Program Committee. Applications are due by January 15 for programs beginning the following September. We currently do not offer January program starts.

Applications are made online through the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies [website](#).

Collating the paperwork required for your application can be time-consuming. Students are advised to start this task well before our deadline of January 15. You will need to have the following documents and resources:

- The names and email addresses of your referees.

- Your educational history from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- Visa or MasterCard for online payment of \$120 application fee. This payment is non-refundable and processing of an application will not be done prior to the payment being received.

Once the \$120 application fee has been paid you will be able to upload your application package containing the following:

- A writing sample.
- Unofficial transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (official transcripts will only be required if a student is admitted to the program).
- A two-page proposal outlining:
 - Your proposed area of research;
 - A summary of your research plan;
 - The Indigenous Studies faculty member that you would like to supervise your project and the reasons why you want them as a supervisor;
 - Other potential committee members in the Department of Indigenous Studies or at the University of Saskatchewan;
 - Graduate courses that you plan to enroll in; and,
 - Financial support secured and/or applied for.

Only applications with all supporting materials submitted by the deadline will be considered by the Graduate Program Committee. Decisions on admissions are generally made in the month following the deadline. You will receive notification of the committee's decision via email. Admission deferrals are offered at the discretion of the Graduate Program Committee.

All applications are subject to final approval by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Section 3: FACULTY AND STAFF

3.1 Faculty

Leonzo Barreno

PhD (Saskatchewan). Maya K'iche'.

Assistant Professor and Graduate Chair

Office: Kirk Hall 133 **Phone:** 966-2512

leb002@mail.usask.ca

Specializations: International Indigenous Studies; international Indigenous rights, international Indigenous higher education, international Indigenous scientific accomplishments; Pre-colonization, colonization, decolonization; Mayan Studies (religion and spirituality, ways of knowing, identity and identity fraud), and genocide.

Bonita Beatty

PhD (Alberta), MA (Regina), BA (Regina)

Associate Professor and Department Head

Office: Kirk Hall 135 **Phone:** 966-6975

bonita.beatty@usask.ca

Specializations: Indigenous governance, Indigenous public policy, health and capacity building among Aboriginal populations in northern Saskatchewan, community engagement in northern Saskatchewan.

Robert (Bobby) Henry

PhD (Saskatchewan), MEd (Saskatchewan) Métis.

Assistant Professor and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Justice and Wellbeing

Office: Kirk Hall 234 **Phone:** 966-5304

rob.henry@usask.ca

Specializations: Indigenous street gangs, Indigenous health and wellbeing, Indigenous justice, arts-based research, Indigenous identity, survivance, Indigenous methodologies, community engaged research, Indigenous urban issues, anti-oppressive pedagogy.

Michelle Hogan

MA (Saskatchewan)

Lecturer

Office: Kirk Hall 134 **Phone:** 966-5556

michelle.hogan@usask.ca

Angela Jaime

PhD (Purdue), MA (San Francisco State)

Vice Provost Indigenous Engagement

Office: Admin 105

angela.jaime@usask.ca

Specializations: Autoethnography; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Indigenous education; Indigenous identity; Narrative enquiry; Tribalcrit.

Jade McDougall

PhD (Saskatchewan), MA (Saskatchewan). Métis.

Assistant Professor

Office: Kirk Hall 132 **Phone:** 966-1925

jam150@mail.usask.ca

Specializations: Indigenous Literatures, Métis Family Narratives, Indigenous Futurisms, Zines & Ephemeral Print, Cultural Studies, Digital Humanities.

Randy Morin

MEd (Victoria), BEd (Saskatchewan), BA (FNUC)

Assistant Professor

Office: Kirk Hall 128 **Phone:** 966-6641

ram690@mail.usask.ca

Specializations: Cree language, culture, and history.

Swapna Padmanabha

PhD ABD (Saskatchewan)

Office: Kirk Hall 130 **Phone:** 966-7681

swp019@mail.usask.ca

Specializations: Allyship, ethics, and antiracism.

Allyson Stevenson

PhD (Saskatchewan). Métis.

Gabriel Dumont Research Chair in Métis Studies

Office: Kirk Hall 129 **Phone:** 966-6211

allyson.stevenson@usask.ca

Specializations: Métis History; Métis Political Activism; Indigenous Women's Political Organizing; Indigenous Child Welfare History; Indigenous Children and Childhoods' Métis Culture, Gender and Indigenous Rights; Historic Métis Communities in the Saskatchewan River District; Indigenous Women's Political Organizing in Saskatchewan; Histories of Métis Gender and Labour.

Winona Wheeler

PhD (Berkeley), MA (UBC), BA Hons (Manitoba)

Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Studies

Office: Kirk Hall 127 **Phone:** 966-6210

winona.wheeler@usask.ca

Specializations: History, Cree intellectual traditions, Indigenous-settler relations, Indigenous oral histories, Indigenous Knowledge, land claims and treaty rights, community-based/engaged research, anti-colonial theory and approaches, Indigenous women.

3.2 Sessional Lecturers

Jocelyn Orb

jocelyn.orb@usask.ca

Sheldon Krasowski

skk121@mail.usask.ca

Mylan Tootoosis

mylan.tootoosis@usask.ca

3.3 Staff

Michelle Jarvin

Finance and Administration

Office: Kirk Hall 142 Phone: 966-6209

michelle.jarvin@usask.ca

3.4 Current Faculty Research Projects

- Indigenous Health Systems, Governance, and Service Delivery
- Indigenous Healthcare for High Need Populations in Sub-Arctic and Arctic Regions
- Northern Self-determination, Development, Energy Security, and Indigenous Engagement
- Indigenous Oral Histories
- Indigenous Knowledges and Ways of Knowing
- Numbered Treaty Provisions & Treaty Rights Claims
- Indigenous Environmental Management and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Indigenous Street Gangs and Criminology
- Indigenous Health and Wellbeing
- Indigenous Urban Issues
- Addictions, Trauma, and Violence
- Digital Storytelling
- Cree-Métis Oral Histories of the Saskatchewan River Delta
- Partnering to Share Cree-Métis Histories Connected to Cumberland House
- Indigenous Literatures and Futurisms
- Métis Family Narratives
- Community Engaged Research
- Pre-colonization, Colonization, Decolonization
- Mayan Studies (Religion and Spirituality, Ways of Knowing)
- Social Justice and Law
- International Indigenous Rights
- Cree Language

3.5 Areas of Study

Major geographic areas of study:

- Prairies and wider Canada
- The Americas
- New Zealand (Aotearoa)
- Mesoamerica (southern Mexico and Central America)

Major thematic areas of study:

- Indigenous Gender Studies
- Systems of Indigenous Governance
- Indigenous Development
- Indigenous History, Language & Culture

Section 4: Program Structure

4.1 Coursework Requirements

4.1.1 Master's

All students in this program will complete 18 credit units of course work (typically 6 classes) and a thesis. There is no project option in this program.

Required courses are INDG 802, INDG 803, GPS 960 and GPS 961 (if applicable). Students must also register in INDG 990 for one year and maintain continuous registration in INDG 994.

Students must then complete an additional 12 credit units of graduate courses from Indigenous Studies or other relevant departments.

Coursework is generally completed within the first 8 months of the program.

4.1.2 PhD

All students in this program will complete at least 12 credit units of coursework (typically 4 classes) and a thesis. Students entering the program with degrees outside the discipline of Indigenous Studies may be required to complete additional coursework and/or a qualifying exam. There is no project option in this program.

The course breakdown for students includes:

A minimum of 9 credits in Indigenous Studies, including:

- 802.3 Applied Indigenous Studies Research Methods
- 803.3 Theoretical Issues in Indigenous Studies
- A minimum 3 Credit units from one of the following concentrations:
 - Governance
 - Development
 - Gender
 - History, Language, Culture
- 3 credit units approved by the student's supervisor and advisory committee
- INDG 990.0: Non-Credit Seminar in Indigenous Research and Professional Development
- INDG 996.0: Students must maintain continuous registration.
- GPS 960 Introduction to Ethics and Integrity
- GPS 961 Ethics and Integrity in Human Research (if applicable)

4.2 Graduate Course Offerings

INDG 802.3 - Applied Indigenous Studies Research Methods

Emphasizes the development of skills to conduct research on, for, and with Indigenous Peoples. Technical skills and ethical issues will be addressed.

INDG 803.3 - Theoretical Issues in Indigenous Studies

Critically examines theoretical developments in Indigenous Studies and relevant cognate disciplines, such as Sociology, History, and Anthropology where Indigenous issues are being addressed.

INDG 806.3 – New Writings in Indigenous Studies

In recent years, the number of published Indigenous scholars has grown substantially. In this course, we will examine the approaches Indigenous Studies researchers use in their research. Specifically, we will play close attention to the types of methods and theories employed to ascertain to what degree an Indigenous Studies approach to research has materialized.

INDG 810.3 - Aboriginal Self Determination through Mitho-Pimachesowin

This course explores a range of Aboriginal conceptual foundations of Aboriginal Self Determination and examines the emerging application of "Mitho-Pimachesowin" in Aboriginal development. Historically, the Aboriginal "Way of Life" had spiritual roots and encompassed all of life, and this holistic perspective continues to influence modern developments in varying degrees. This class will introduce students to the Cree concept of Mitho-Pimachesowin (ability to make a good living) and will also explore the related elements of autonomy, kinship, work ethic, respect, responsibility, and resilience as they apply to contemporary and comparative initiatives in Aboriginal Self Determination.

INDG 811.3 – Cree Indigenous Knowledge and Governance

This reading course consists of weekly readings and discussions designed to immerse the student in discourses related to the topic of Cree traditional knowledge and governance. This reading course will explore various theories from law, anthropology, education, philosophy, and other disciplines to assess the degree in which these theories can access and convey Indigenous perspectives. The course will also examine how Cree traditional knowledge can be deployed as a theoretical framework in ways that assists us to gain a fuller understanding of traditional Cree governance and how that understanding can be applied in the modern context.

INDG 833.3 – Indigenous Genocide

That the literature on Indigenous genocide is relatively sparse reflects the degree in which non-Indigenous North Americans have constructed their national histories that either erases Indigenous historical presence as in the United States or as in Canada promotes a benevolent national character. As a result, in both countries there is a refusal to take seriously any claims of Indigenous genocide. This readings course provides a counter-narrative to explore the various ways in which genocide has been enacted upon Indigenous peoples, how discussion about Indigenous genocide has shifted in recent years, and the multitude of long-term implications genocide has created for Indigenous people.

INDG 871.3 – Indigenous Women: Feminism, Politics, and Resistance

This course explores issues relating to the historical and contemporary experiences of Indigenous women in northern North America. It examines themes including Indigenous understandings of gender

and kinship; the history of settler colonial policy and the regulation of Indigenous women; the law and criminalization; labour and informal economies; politics and activism; and motherhood and child welfare. This course also considers Indigenous feminist analyses and its relationship to understanding Indigenous women's issues.

INDG 873.3 – Comparative Indigenous Masculinities

Though the literature on masculinity has increased dramatically in the last 15 years, researchers have recently begun to explore the notion of Indigenous masculinities. The majority of research has emerged in the Pacific Islands and Africa and has garnered sparse attention in North America. Through course readings of articles and book and written assignments, this reading intensive course will introduce students to the issues of masculinity from a global Indigenous perspective and provide an introduction to the general masculinity literature.

INDG 885.3 – Global Indigenous Health

This course will develop students' understandings of global Indigenous health through a critical Indigenist health lens. Health will be discussed in terms of mind, body, spirit and relationship with land, sky, air, animals/insects, and water.

INDG 898.3 - Special Topics

Concentrated reading and research in selected areas of Indigenous Studies.

INDG 990 - Seminar

All students will be required to register for and attend for one-year INDG 990 (Graduate Seminar) and offer one seminar on their thesis research prior to graduation.

INDG 994 - Research

Students writing a Master's thesis must maintain continuous registration in this course.

INDG 996 - Research

Students writing a Ph.D. thesis must maintain continuous registration in this course.

GPS 960.0 - Introduction to Ethics and Integrity

A required course for all first-year graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan. The purpose of this course is to discuss ethical issues that graduate students may face during their time at the University. All students will complete modules dealing with integrity and scholarship, graduate student-supervisor relationships, conflict of interest, conflict resolution and intellectual property and credit.

GPS 961.0 - Ethics and Integrity in Human Research

Introduces students to the ethics of research with human subjects. Students will complete the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethics Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS) Tutorial and become familiar with the human ethics processes at the University of Saskatchewan.

4.3 Program & Thesis Requirements: Master's

The Department of Indigenous Studies expects students to complete their program in 4-6 Terms (16-24 months), under normal circumstances. For students who require language training or foreign research, completion of the degree may take longer.

4.3.1 Thesis Proposal

During the first eight months of their program, students will develop a research topic, and prepare and defend a thesis proposal. This is typically revised from the student's original program of study with guidance from their supervisor, advisory committee, and participation in INDG graduate courses (particularly INDG 990). The proposal should be about 15 double-spaced pages (excluding bibliography) and should clearly articulate the main objective of the research (including relevant research questions), include a literature review of the relevant scholarship, and outline the theoretical framework and methodological approaches the student will use. The proposal should also include a timeline as an appendix, which will outline the student's research and writing plans.

The thesis proposal is submitted to the student's supervisor for review and recommendations for revision. Once the proposal is judged satisfactory by the supervisor, copies of the proposal are provided to the other members of the advisory committee. After the advisory committee has reviewed the proposal, the supervisor will arrange a proposal defense. Here the student will have the opportunity to respond to and pose questions about their research plans and the committee will determine by consensus whether the proposal reflects a feasible and robust research program. If consensus cannot be reached, the committee will determine revisions the student needs to undertake before re-submitting their proposal. If the proposal is satisfactory, the student is approved to continue with research and writing. Written notification of the proposal approval will be submitted to the graduate administrator.

Students should aim to complete their proposal defense by the end of their eighth month (typically April). Failure to do this could jeopardize the student's place in the program and will be reflected in annual reviews.

4.3.2 Ethics Approval to Conduct Research

Students requiring ethics approval for their research will aim to draft and submit their application during the summer Term (see link to submission dates, below). The University of Saskatchewan Research Ethics Boards (REBs) operates in accordance with the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* (August 1998) and the *University of Saskatchewan Policies and Procedures for Ethics in Human Research* (October 2002). These policy statements are the principle body of "rules" under which the REBs function. All research that involves living human subjects requires review and approval by the REB. [REB Submission Dates](#)

4.3.3 Supervisor

Students will be assigned a supervisor whose research interests and expertise aligns with the student's needs. Students may identify potential supervisors in their program application, but **the final decision rests with the Graduate Program Committee**. Supervisors are expected to meet and/or be in contact with their students regularly to ensure adequate progress is being made. It is expected that supervisors will be available for all major program milestones, and in the event of leaves of absences or sabbaticals, supervisors will be expected to arrange for continued supervision. Students must also keep their supervisors and the Department apprised of any changes to their program status. The roles and responsibilities of the student-supervisor relationship are outlined in the [Student-Supervisor Agreement](#)

4.3.4 Advisory Committee

The supervisor, in consultation with the student, invites others to serve on the advisory committee, which has the primary responsibility for directing and evaluating graduate study. The advisory

committee approves the research proposal in a formal defense and must approve any other major changes to the research plan thereafter. The advisory committee must meet at least once per year to complete annual progress reports.

The [advisory committee](#) for a Master's consists of a minimum of two members, namely your supervisor and one or more additional members. You may have co-supervisors.

The Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is an ex-officio member of every advisory committee.

4.3.5 Annual Progress Reports

Students will meet with their supervisor and advisory committee at least once per year to evaluate student progress in the program. Students are evaluated on their coursework completion (and final grades), their progress in research and writing, the completion of their ethics application (if applicable), and progress towards professional development. Failure to make progress may result in a recommendation that the student withdraw from the program. Further, students on scholarship must maintain an 80% GPA and students on Teaching Assistantships must maintain a 70% to avoid losing their funding. The supervisor is responsible for calling these meetings, keeping minutes of the meetings, and distributing those to the student, advisory committee, and graduate chair. Annual progress reports are completed using the GPS 210 form, which is forwarded to the departmental administrator and held in the student's departmental file.

4.3.6 Symposium

All students are required to complete a symposium presentation on an aspect of their research to fulfill the requirements of INDG 990. The symposium may take place as a departmental event where students are scheduled to present, or students may be asked to present at an academic conference to fulfill this requirement. The terms of the symposium are at the discretion of the Graduate Program Committee and may change from year to year.

4.3.7 Thesis Research and Writing

The thesis must be based on original research and demonstrate sound scholarship in the field of Indigenous Studies. Students will be guided through the thesis writing process by their supervisor. Once the supervisor is satisfied with the quality of the thesis, copies are provided to the advisory committee who review and provide comments within 3 weeks. The advisory committee can suggest revisions to be completed before the defense. Once the advisory committee has approved the thesis manuscript, the student will prepare final copies to submit to the examining committee and chair. The chair will ensure the manuscript conforms to the standards of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. On approval of the thesis manuscript, the advisory committee will make recommendations to the chair on the appointment of an external examiner. Once approved by the chair, the thesis defense is scheduled.

4.3.8 Thesis Format

[The Thesis Roadmap](#) provides a detailed description of the thesis format requirements.

The recommended length for the main body of a Master's thesis (excluding appendices and supporting documentation) is between 50 and 150 pages.¹

¹ This standard is set by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

4.3.9 Thesis Examination

At least one month prior to the defense, the supervisor must submit the necessary forms to the chair to schedule the defense. Once the defense is approved, the external examiner is provided a copy of the thesis and given at least 3 weeks to read and prepare for the defense. The external examiner is typically a faculty member from another department at the University and must be someone with some knowledge of the research area but with whom the student has no personal relationship and has not discussed their research. The time between when a student submits their draft to their supervisor and the final defense can be approximately 3-4 months. Students are encouraged to plan accordingly.

The thesis examination is a public, oral examination conducted by the thesis examining committee (the supervisor, advisory committee, and external examiner). It is usually about two hours in length and consists of two rounds of questions. Each round begins with the external examiner, then the committee members, and finally the supervisor (who may choose not to ask questions). Questions are limited to the work done by the candidate in their thesis and knowledge of directly related material. Once the examination is complete, the examining committee meets to determine if the written thesis AND the oral defense, meet the necessary requirements to award the degree. The examining committee will decide by consensus or majority vote whether the thesis AND defense are:

- 1.) passed without revisions;
- 2.) passed with revisions (major or minor);
- 3.) to be re-examined;
- 4.) rejected.

The student is advised immediately of the results.

If the student fails the oral examination but passes the written, a second oral examination may be scheduled. This typically occurs within 2-3 months of the original defense.

4.3.10 Masters Expected Timeline

*Terms are calculated to include Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer

Degree Milestone	Timeline
Coursework	Terms 1-2 (September – April)
Research Proposal, Ethics (if applicable), Begin Research	Term 3 (April – August)
Thesis Research and Writing	Term 4/5 (September- April)
Thesis Defense	Term 5 (April)

4.3.11 Residency and Time Limits

The University of Saskatchewan has a residency requirement of full-time attendance for one regular academic session (September to April). The program is designed to be completed within 2 years of full-time studies and the program time limit is 4 years.

4.3.12 Extensions

Program completion limit for a Master's degree is four years. Students who are approaching the 4-year program time limit will need the formal support of their advisory committee to apply for an extension. The student must submit a written request to their supervisor and provide a reason for their slow progress and a detailed plan, with a timeline, for completing the remaining requirements. The supervisor will then arrange a meeting with the advisory committee, who may approve one extension of up to 12

months/three academic terms. If the program requirements are still incomplete by the end of the first extension, a request may be submitted to the Dean of CGPS for one additional extension of up to 12 months/three academic terms. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the program time limit and to initiate the extension request. Please consult [deadlines and processes](#) for relevant details.

4.4 Program & Thesis Requirements: PhD

A doctoral degree is an individual, self-directed, contribution to knowledge. It requires a considerable intellectual effort on the part of the student but also develops the skills of project management and institutional administration, and also an appreciation of the challenging contexts of research funding and ethics, and wider Indigenous issues and community aspirations.

4.4.1 Qualifying and Doctoral Candidacy Assessment (formerly Comprehensive Exams)

The student may be required to successfully pass a qualifying examination in their first year of study. The oral defense for the award of a Master's degree at the University of Saskatchewan or another recognized institution may, at the discretion of the student's supervisor and advisory committee, be accepted in lieu of the PhD Qualifying Exam.

After completing coursework requirements, students will begin readings for their doctoral candidacy assessment. Students are required to complete 3 areas of concentration including an Indigenous Studies field and two fields from our four departmental concentrations (Governance; Development; Gender; and History, Language, Culture), that best fit their areas of interest. Students may take courses in cognate departments. Students are expected to complete their assessment within 24-months of initial registration.

[Doctoral Candidate Assessment Policies and Procedures](#)

The assessment exam, unless another format was agreed between supervisor, student and committee, consists of two parts: three candidacy papers (either take home or in-person format) and an oral defense. Generally, these papers will be spaced over the course of one week, with the oral examination taking place within the following week. The candidacy papers will assess the student's knowledge of the field of specialization and its place within the discipline of Indigenous Studies. The supervisor, in consultation with the field supervisors, will compile the questions for the written examinations. Typically, students will be provided with a number of questions and are asked to respond to two. Their responses should be approximately 3,000 words in length.

Field supervisors will read and evaluate the candidacy papers to determine if they are suitable for defense. Each paper will be read by two members of the committee to ensure accuracy. If the committee deems one or more of the papers is unsuitable, the student may be asked to rewrite the exam, or may ultimately fail the written portion of the exam and be asked to withdraw from the program.

Students are expected to complete their comprehensive exams within the first five terms of their program. Failure to do this will be considered in the annual progress review and could result in a recommendation to withdraw from the program.

4.4.2 Language Requirement

The student is required to prove their competency in reading a language other than English as part of

the Indigenous Studies PhD program requirement. This second language must be related to the field/area of study as determined by the student's advisory committee. If the language is offered at the university level the student will be asked to enroll in 6 credits of language course(s) passing with a grade of 60% and above. If the language required for study is not available at the university level, the student will work with a community language keeper and pass a translation exam administered by this language keeper through the Department of Indigenous Studies.

If the requirement was completed at a different level of study (i.e., undergraduate or Master's) and is determined by the advisory committee as applicable to the area of research, this requirement will be waived.

4.4.3 Oral Examination

The oral examination follows the successful evaluation of a student's candidacy papers by the student's advisory committee. The oral examination assesses the student's written responses (asking for expansion or clarification); covers topics in the specialization fields; and may address broader issues within Indigenous Studies as a whole. The oral examination will be conducted by the field supervisors and is usually 2-3 hours long.

After the examination, members of the committee will determine by consensus or majority vote² whether the oral components of the comprehensive examination are:

1. Passed without condition
2. Passed with condition (e.g., conditions may include a requirement to re-write one of the papers or to take another course)
3. Failed

In the event of failure, the committee will recommend:

1. the student be granted a second opportunity to complete the exam (to be completed within 2-3 months)
2. that the student be required to withdraw from the program.

It is the responsibility of the supervisor to provide a copy of the written examination questions, completed exams, and reading lists for the student's file. It is the responsibility of the chair of the committee to inform the graduate administrator and the graduate chair of the outcome of the comprehensive examination.

4.4.4 Dissertation Proposal

Upon completion of the candidacy assessment, students will submit a written dissertation proposal to their advisory committee and pass an oral defense of this proposal. The purpose of the proposal and proposal defense is to ensure the student's research area is appropriate for the PhD level. The proposal should be between 15 and 20 double-spaced pages (excluding bibliography) and should clearly articulate the main objective of the research (including relevant research questions), include a literature review of the relevant scholarship, and outline the theoretical framework and methodological approaches the student will use. The proposal should also include a timeline as an appendix, which will outline the student's research and writing plans.

² The Chair is non-voting except to break a tie.

The thesis proposal is submitted to the student's supervisor for review and recommendations for revision. Once the proposal is judged satisfactory by the supervisor, copies of the proposal are provided to the other members of the advisory committee. After the advisory committee has reviewed the proposal, the supervisor will arrange a proposal defense. Here the student will have the opportunity to respond to and pose questions about their research plans and the committee will determine by consensus whether the proposal reflects a feasible and robust research program. If consensus cannot be reached, the committee will determine revisions the student needs to undertake before re-submitting their proposal. If the proposal is satisfactory, the student is approved to continue with research and writing. Written notification of the proposal approval will be submitted to the graduate administrator.

4.4.5 Ethical Approval to Conduct Research

The University of Saskatchewan Research Ethics Boards (REBs) operates in accordance with the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* (August 1998) and the *University of Saskatchewan Policies and Procedures for Ethics in Human Research* (October 2002). These policy statements are the principle body of "rules" under which the REBs function.

All research that involves living human subjects requires review and approval by the REB according to the guidelines set out therein.

Please visit the [USask Ethics Office](#) for more information and to access the ethics review template.

4.4.6 Supervisor

Students will be assigned a supervisor whose research interests and expertise aligns with the student's needs. Students may identify potential supervisors in their program application, but the final decision rests with the Graduate Program Committee. Supervisors are expected to meet and/or be in contact with their students regularly to ensure adequate progress is being made. It is expected that supervisors will be available for all major program milestones, and in the event of leaves of absences or sabbaticals, supervisors will be expected to arrange for continued supervision. Students must also keep their supervisors and the Department apprised of any changes to their program status. The roles and responsibilities of the student-supervisor relationship are outlined [here](#):

4.4.7 Advisory Committee

The supervisor, in consultation with the student, invites others to serve on the advisory committee, which has the primary responsibility for directing and evaluating graduate study. The advisory committee approves the program of study in a proposal defense and must approve any other major changes to the program of study thereafter. The advisory committee must meet at least once per year to complete annual progress reports.

The advisory committee consists of at least 3 members: your supervisor, 1 (or more) additional members, and 1 cognate member.

The Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is an ex-officio member of every advisory committee. [The CGPS website](#) has a more detailed explanation of committee formation and operation.

4.4.8 Annual Progress Reports

Students will meet with their supervisor and advisory committee at least once per year to evaluate

student progress in the program. Students are evaluated on their coursework completion (and final grades), their progress in research and writing, the completion of their ethics application (if applicable), and progress towards professional development. Failure to make progress may result in a recommendation that the student withdraw from the program. Further, students on scholarship must maintain an 80% GPA and students on Teaching Assistantships must maintain a 70% to avoid losing their funding. The supervisor is responsible for calling these meetings, keeping minutes of the meetings, and distributing those to the student, advisory committee, and graduate chair. Annual progress reports are completed using the GPS 210 form and given to the department administrator to be entered into the student information system.

4.4.9 Symposium

All students are required to complete a symposium presentation on an aspect of their research to fulfill the requirements of INDG 990. The symposium may take place as a departmental event where students are scheduled to present, or students may be asked to present at an academic conference to fulfill this requirement. The terms of the symposium are at the discretion of the Graduate Committee and may change from year to year.

4.4.10 Thesis Research and Writing

The thesis must be based on original research and demonstrate sound scholarship in the field of Indigenous Studies. It must make a significant contribution to the field of Indigenous Studies and be publishable in article or monograph form. Students will be guided through the thesis writing process by their supervisor. Once the supervisor is satisfied with the quality of the thesis, copies are provided to the advisory committee who review and provide comments within 4 weeks. The advisory committee can suggest revisions to be completed before the defense. Once the advisory committee has approved the thesis manuscript, the student will forward copies to the examining committee and chair. The chair will ensure the manuscript conforms to the standards of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. On approval of the thesis manuscript, the advisory committee will make recommendations to the chair on the appointment of an external examiner. Once approved by the chair, the thesis defense is scheduled.

4.4.11 Thesis Format

[The Thesis Roadmap](#) provides a detailed description of the thesis format requirements.

The recommended length for the main body of a PhD thesis (excluding appendices and supporting documentation) is between 150 and 300 pages.³

4.4.12 Thesis Examination

The supervisor, student, and advisory committee will determine when a dissertation is ready for defense. Once a dissertation is deemed ready for defense, the supervisor and committee will recommend an examination committee. The examination committee shall include a university examiner, who can be from the Department of Indigenous Studies, and an external examiner. The external examiner is a faculty member from another University who is an expert in the dissertation research area but with whom the student does not have a personal relationship and has not discussed their research. The university and the external examiner are chosen by the examining committee in consultation with the student and must be approved by the chair and the College of Graduate and

³ This standard is set by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Postdoctoral Studies. At least 6 weeks prior to the defense, the supervisor must submit the necessary forms to the chair to schedule the defense. The time between when a student submits their draft to their supervisor and the final defense can be approximately 3-4 months. Students are advised to plan accordingly.

The thesis examination is a public, oral examination conducted by the thesis examining committee (the supervisor, advisory committee, university examiner, and external examiner). It is usually two to three hours in length and consists of two rounds of questions. Each round begins with the external examiner, then the committee members, and finally the supervisor (who may choose not to ask questions). Questions are limited to the work done by the candidate in their thesis and knowledge of directly related material. Once the examination is complete, the examining committee meets to determine if the written thesis AND the oral defense, meet the necessary requirements to award the degree. The examining committee will decide by consensus or majority vote whether the thesis AND defense are:

1. Passed without revisions;
2. Passed with revisions (major or minor);
3. To be re-examined;
4. Rejected.

The student will be advised immediately of the results.

If the student fails the oral examination but passes the written, a second oral examination may be scheduled. This typically occurs within 2-3 months of the original defense.

[Oral Examination of the PhD Dissertation](#)

4.4.13 Residency and Time Limits

The University of Saskatchewan has a residency requirement of full-time attendance for one regular academic session (September to April). The program is designed to be completed within 4 years of full-time studies and the program time limit is 6 years.

4.4.14 PhD Expected Timeline

*Terms are calculated to include Fall, Winter, and Summer

Degree Milestone	Timeline
Coursework	Term 1-2
Doctoral Candidacy Assessment	Term 3-5
Dissertation Proposal	Term 6
Language Requirement	Term 6
Dissertation Writing	Term 7-12
Dissertation Defense	Term 12

4.4.15 Requesting Extensions

Students who are approaching the 6-year program time limit will need the formal support of their advisory committee to apply for an extension. The student must submit a written request to their

supervisor and provide a reason for their slow progress and a detailed plan, with timeline, for completing the remaining requirements. The supervisor will then arrange a meeting with the advisory committee, who may approve one extension of up to 12 months/three academic terms. If the program requirements are still incomplete by the end of the first extension, a request may be submitted to the Dean of CGPS for two additional extensions of up to 12 months/three academic terms. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the program time limit and to initiate the extension request. Please consult [Time in Program Extensions](#) for relevant details.

Section 5: Research Supervisors

Name	Research area keywords
Leonzo Barreno	International Indigenous Studies (governance, education, scientific accomplishments); Pre-colonization, colonization, decolonization; Mayan Studies (religion and spirituality, ways of knowing); Genocide; Social Justice and international Indigenous rights.
Bonita Beatty	Aboriginal, Indigenous, Saskatchewan, community, community engagement, governance, health, public policy.
Robert Henry	Indigenous street gangs, Indigenous health and wellbeing, Indigenous urban issues, survivance, Indigenous criminology, Indigenous methodologies.
Angela Jaime	Autoethnography; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Indigenous education; Indigenous identity; Narrative enquiry; Tribalcrit
Jade McDougall	Indigenous Literatures, Métis Family Narratives, Indigenous Futurisms, Zines & Ephemeral Print, Cultural Studies, Digital Humanities.
Allyson Stevenson	Métis History, Métis Political Activism, Indigenous Women's Political Organizing, Indigenous Child Welfare History, Indigenous Children and Childhoods, Metis Culture, Gender and Indigenous Rights.
Winona Wheeler	Community-Based, anti-colonial, education, indigenous, knowledge, oral history, women.

Section 6: Tuition and Funding

6.1 Tuition

Graduate students in a thesis or project based program pay [tuition](#) three times a year for as long as they are enrolled in their program.

6.2 Funding

All successful applicants for graduate studies in the Department are considered for support or scholarship on the basis of merit. No separate application is required. Funding can take the form of Teaching and Research Assistantships, scholarships, and periodically, department bursaries (subject to Department budgetary considerations).

Eligible graduate students are ***required*** to apply for outside funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Assistance with the application process occurs in INDG 990 and applications are typically due in October.

http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/umbrella_programs-programme_cadre/talent-eng.aspx

<https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/index-eng.aspx>

In addition to potential funding from your department, there are scholarships and awards available within the College of Arts and Science, the University, and beyond.

6.2.1 Department and University Scholarships

Department Scholarships

The **Howard and Marge Adams Award** is open to students entering and/or continuing a graduate degree program at the University of Saskatchewan. To be eligible for an award, applicants must be Metis and/or Non-Status Indians, must have completed their undergraduate degree from the University of Saskatchewan or any other university, with a major in Indigenous Studies, and have attained a minimum grade point average of 70% in the last regular session, as determined by the Awards Committee.

Preference will be given to students continuing graduate studies with a major in Indigenous Studies as determined by the Awards Committee. **July 31 deadline**

The **Gabriel Dumont Graduate Scholarship in Métis Studies** is valued at \$20,000/year with the possibility of renewal for a second year. Scholarship holders will work closely with the Gabriel Dumont Chair in Métis Studies. Open to students entering or continuing graduate studies in the College of Arts and Science who are pursuing or intend to pursue studies which focus on Métis culture. Preference will be given to eligible students who:

1. self-identify as Métis persons and who provide some form of reasonable verification, including, but not limited to, a brief statement on their genealogy and/or community acceptance or heritage, and;
2. have graduated from high school in the province of Saskatchewan.

Selection will be based on research excellence, as determined by the Awards Committee. Questions should be directed to allyson.stevenson@usask.ca.

CGPS 75th Recruitment Scholarship

This scholarship, created to celebrate the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' 75th anniversary, is open to high-performing graduate students (80% or higher USask grade system equivalent). Students do not have to apply directly for this scholarship but are eligible to be considered upon applying to a USask graduate program.

- Value: \$20,000 (may be offered for multiple years)

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the awards they are eligible for and apply. Please note that students cannot hold more than one major award (such as SSHRC or a CGPS 75th Recruitment Scholarship) concurrently.

For University awards, please consult the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website: <https://grad.usask.ca/funding/scholarships.php#Programspecificfunding>
<https://students.usask.ca/money/awards/graduate-awards.php>

Further external funding is available through [Indspire](#), and other agencies, and students are encouraged to apply for these awards.

6.2.2 Department Travel and Research Funding

Current graduate students are eligible to apply for travel and research funding one time per academic year. Please consult the [travel and research funding guidelines](#) on the Department webpage.

Section 7: Useful Links and Resources

College of Graduate
and Postdoctoral
Studies (CGPS)

<https://cgps.usask.ca/>

Gordon Oakes Red
Bear Student Centre

<https://indigenous.usask.ca/about/about-gorbsc.php>

Student Wellness
Centre

<https://students.usask.ca/health/centres/wellness-centre.php>

Access and Equity
Services

<https://students.usask.ca/health/centres/access-equity-services.php>

International
Student & Study
Abroad Centre

<http://students.usask.ca/international/>

U of S Student
Services,
Information for
New Students

<https://students.usask.ca/new-students.php>

Housing and Child
Care

<https://students.usask.ca/essentials/housing.php#Oncampushousing>

University
Residence
Information and
Applications

<http://livewithus.usask.ca/>

Tourism Saskatoon
Website

<http://www.tourismsaskatoon.com/>