

SHAPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Health Policy PhD Program



Health Policy PhD 2023-2024 Graduate Student Handbook

Approved July 2023

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This guide contains general information for individuals entering the Health Policy PhD Program, though it is not all-inclusive. The current, official publication of the [Graduate Calendar](#) should be referenced for complete information regarding your academics, regulations, requirements and general information, available on the [SGS website](#).

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This guide contains general information for individuals entering the Health Policy PhD Program, though it is not all-inclusive. The current, official publication of the [School of Graduate Studies Calendar](#) should be referenced for complete information regarding your academics.

Please note: If there is any discrepancy between a department or program handbook and the School of Graduate Studies Calendar, then the School of Graduate Studies Calendar shall prevail. Thank you.

Land Acknowledgement: McMaster University recognizes and acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the “Dish with One Spoon” wampum agreement.

DISCLAIMER

WELCOME FROM THE PROGRAM

On behalf of the members of the Health Policy PhD Program, we wish you a very warm welcome -- or welcome back for returning students.

September 2023 marks the 16th year of the interdisciplinary PhD in Health Policy. Our goal is to help you to have a successful experience in the program. We hope you will be engaged and challenged as you progress.

Our learning environment is enriched by the diverse backgrounds of the students and the wide array of research and learning networks led by our highly successful faculty members who teach and lead research in 5 Faculties and 11 Departments throughout the University. Many of our program faculty are affiliated with McMaster's Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis which partners closely with the Program and has been a recognized leader in the field of health policy for over 25 years. Our students also enjoy the benefits of their involvement with many other research and knowledge mobilization hubs including the [McMaster Health Forum](#), [Health Economics at McMaster \(HEAM\)](#), [Big Data and Geriatrics Models of Care Research Cluster](#), the [Humanitarian Health Ethics \(HHE\) Research Group](#) and the [Public and Patient Engagement Collaborative](#).

Beyond research and education, there are many opportunities for you to get involved -- through service and leadership roles in the Health Policy program, the broader McMaster community or in the vibrant Canadian and global international health policy communities.

We encourage you to explore everything McMaster and @MacHPPHD has to offer during the course of your studies - we look forward to seeing you flourish in this exciting PhD Program.

Sincerely,



Arthur Sweetman, PhD
Acting Program Director

A MESSAGE FROM CHEPA'S DIRECTOR

CHEPA and the Health Policy PhD have much in common and support each other in many ways. CHEPA is an interdisciplinary Centre that fosters excellence in acquiring, producing and communicating relevant knowledge in the fields of health economics and health policy analysis. Please visit our faculty and research pages on our website (www.chepa.org). You will interact with CHEPA faculty in class (as many of them teach in the PhD program), and at seminars, and we, at CHEPA welcome these interactions with students and value the diversity of the student body.

Feel free to contact CHEPA faculty who do research that is of interest to you, and do not miss any opportunity to discuss your research with them. Our staff is dedicated to providing you with information, advice, and support that will assist in your initial transition and continued stay at CHEPA. Do not hesitate to knock on my door (or send me an email) if you want to discuss ideas that might be of interest to you, the Centre, and the Program.

On behalf of our faculty and staff, "A Very Warm Welcome to CHEPA" and we hope you have a successful, academically stimulating and gratifying year.

Jean-Eric Tarride, PhD
CHEPA Director



**Centre for Health Economics
and Policy Analysis**

KEY CONTACTS

Health Policy PhD Program General Information

Sheri Burns, HP PhD Program Administrator

sburns@mcmaster.ca ext. 22952

Program Executive Committee

Arthur Sweetman, Acting Director; Comprehensive Exam Chair

Mike Wilson, Field Leader, Political Studies

Meredith Vanstone, Field Leader, Health Systems & Society

Arthur Sweetman, Field Leader, Health Economics

Lisa Schwartz

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askgrad@mcmaster.ca ext. 23679

<https://graduate.mcmaster.ca/contacts>

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Diane Potvin, Scholarship Liaison Officer

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potvind@mcmaster.ca ext. 24234

University Technology Services

<https://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/>

Campus Bookstore

<https://campusstore.mcmaster.ca//>

Campus Security

Ext. 24281

Where To Go For Help

Your Supervisor is the first person to approach with academic queries or concerns. She or he will help guide you regarding all aspects of your degree work.

If your Supervisor is either unavailable or is unable to help, the Program Administrator is the next person to approach with problems or for clarification concerning administrative matters.

If the Program Administrator is unable to provide the guidance you require, the Director of the Program may also be contacted for any item, as listed above.

For in-course student matters and admissions procedures (e.g. course registration, fees, comprehensive examinations,) please contact Sheri Burns.

Problems of a personal nature can also be discussed with the Student Success Centre, Student Wellness, Ombuds Office, and/or Equity and Inclusion Office (see page 22 for more information).

Ombuds Office

A confidential service designed to assist students, faculty and staff in the just, fair and equitable resolution of University related complaints and concerns.

Located in the McMaster University Student Centre (MUSC), Room 210

Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 24151

Web: <https://www.mcmaster.ca/ombuds/> Email: ombuds@mcmaster.ca

Equity and Inclusion Office

Provides services to all students, staff and faculty members within the McMaster community. They are a confidential intake office, responsible for the University's concerns relating to Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Harassment: Prevention and Response.

Located in University Hall, Room 104

Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 27581 or Email: hres@mcmaster.ca

Web: <https://equity.mcmaster.ca>

ABOUT THE HP PhD PROGRAM

The Health Policy PhD Program integrates intellectual resources for education, research, and policy service across McMaster University. The educational program features:

- Quality teaching, supervision and mentorship by internationally distinguished faculty members, with active programs in health policy research and engagement with policy making and evaluation;
- Diverse, interdisciplinary students who share a common focus on health policy, with plenty of opportunities for interaction, mutual learning, and network building; and,
- A special intellectual home in the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA), which provides seminars, workshops, student funding support, and many other resources for collaboration and learning.

Requirements for the Completion of the Degree (at a glance)

- 1) Advanced coursework in the theoretical frameworks and empirical methods comprising the interdisciplinary field of health policy;
- 2) Comprehensive examinations to ensure mastery of key concepts, content, and methods in health policy after relevant coursework is completed; and,
- 3) A dissertation that constitutes a new contribution to knowledge, based on the student's original research.

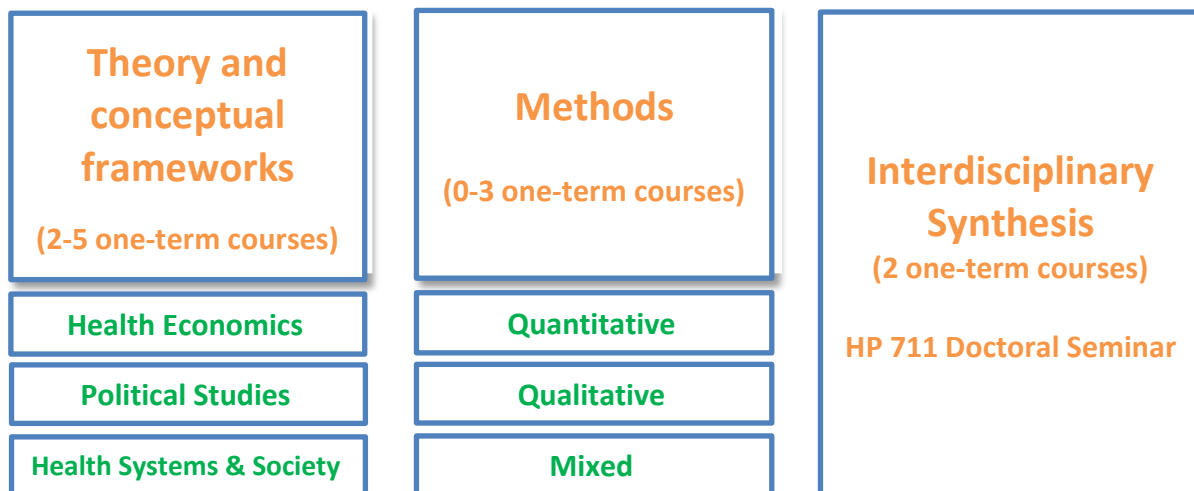
Students and prospective applicants should consult the Graduate Calendar for a complete description of regulations concerning the PhD degree, degree requirements, and graduate studies at McMaster University.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (DETAILED)

I. COURSEWORK

Course requirements are oriented around three core disciplinary fields in Health Policy -- Health Economics, Political Studies and Health Systems & Society – and the empirical methods relevant to the field (qualitative, quantitative and mixed method research methodologies and designs). Please review the field-specific Course Planning Rubrics at the end of this section for further course requirement details.

Health Policy PhD Course Requirements*



**Course requirements usually completed within first 2 years*

Field coursework: Students must specialize in one of three fields, taking the equivalent of 3 one-term courses in that field. Students must also achieve breadth knowledge in the other two fields, taking the equivalent of one half-course in each. The three fields are defined as follows:

- **Health Economics:** the economic analysis of health policies and health systems, as well as the economic analysis of responses to health policies. Topics may include, for example, health resource allocation, configuration of health human resources, economic evaluation of policy options, public and private financing of health care, societal investments in health production, etc. The dominant disciplinary perspective is that of microeconomics, but insight into economic behaviour may also be provided by perspectives such as business, psychology, and others.
- **Political Studies:** political aspects of health policy including the influences by political institutions, actors, values, and ideas operating within state and global jurisdictions. Topics of interest may include the role of historical institutional arrangements in shaping health governance reforms, the impact of global trade agreements on domestic home care and pharmaceutical policy, the role of the public, stakeholders, and prevailing values on policy agendas, etc. Political science is the dominant disciplinary perspective, with related areas including, for example, public policy analysis and administration, comparative public policy, law, ethics, political theory and philosophy.
- **Health Systems & Society:** analysis of the social influences that shape the production of health (and illness), the organization of health services and systems, and their associated policies. Topics of interest, for example, may include the generation and use of information to inform policy, political economies of health and its production, policies to address the social determinants of health and professional roles and behaviour, etc. Relevant disciplinary perspectives include anthropology, business administration or management, health systems, history, ethics, philosophy, political science, psychology and sociology.

Methods coursework: Methodologies for researching and analyzing health policy span from qualitative to quantitative; and, from theoretical to applied methods. They are not discipline-specific, and a variety of methods may be used for research within any of the various theoretical frameworks offered by the specialty fields. *Students are required to take the equivalent of 3 empirical methodology half-courses:* 2 in either a qualitative or quantitative focus of their choice, 1 in the methodological tradition (qualitative or quantitative) outside their focus, and 1 elective in mixed, general or other methods.

Interdisciplinary synthesis coursework: An important feature of the Health Policy PhD curriculum is education for integrating and applying theoretical knowledge and empirical skills to health policy problems in an interdisciplinary, collaborative environment. All students are required to take 2 consecutive half-courses of HLTH POL 711 Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy, which brings the students together for a common focus on current and special topics in health policy, career development and research in progress sessions, and dissertation research development.

Students entering the program with prior and adequate graduation preparation in these fields will be considered for a limited number of course waivers which will determine the number and type of courses to be taken:

Theory and conceptual frameworks (2-5 one-term courses)

Health Economics Political Studies Health Systems & Society

Methods (0-3 one-term courses):

Qualitative Quantitative Mixed

Synthesis and application (2 one-term courses):

Doctoral seminar

Field-Specific Course Rubrics

Health Economics Field, Health Policy PhD – Course Planning Rubric (ver. February 2022)

Student's name:

Date (Day, Month, and Year):

"Prior" courses marked

| Requirement | Course | Waived? | Term Taken | Mark |
|---|---|---------|------------|------|
| Graduate-level statistics (admission requirement, completed prior to entry) | | | | |
| SGS 101 - Academic Research Integrity & Ethics SGS 201 - Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act | SGS 101 and SGS 201 (must be completed online within first 12 months) | N/A | | |
| HLTH POL 711 – Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy | HLTH POL 711 – required Fall year 1 | N/A | | |
| HLTH POL 711 – Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy | HLTH POL 711 – required Winter year 1 | N/A | | |
| Political Studies – breadth course | | | | |
| Health Systems & Society – breadth course | | | | |
| Health Economics – specialty course | | | | |
| Health Economics – specialty course | | | | |
| Health Economics – specialty course | | | | |
| Quantitative methods | | | | |
| Qualitative methods | | | | |
| Methods elective | | | | |
| | | | | |

Political Studies Field, Health Policy PhD – Course Planning Rubric (ver. February 2022)

Student’s name:

Date (Day, Month, and Year):

“Prior” courses marked

| Requirement | Course | Waived? | Term Taken | Mark |
|---|---|---------|------------|------|
| Graduate-level statistics (admission requirement, completed prior to entry) | | | | |
| SGS 101 - Academic Research Integrity & Ethics SGS 201 - Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act | SGS 101 and SGS 201 (must be completed online within first 12 months) | N/A | | |
| HLTH POL 711 – Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy | HLTH POL 711 – required Fall year 1 | N/A | | |
| HLTH POL 711 – Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy | HLTH POL 711 – required Winter year 1 | N/A | | |
| Health Economics – breadth course | | | | |
| Health Systems & Society – breadth course | | | | |
| Political Studies – specialty course | | | | |
| Political Studies – specialty course | | | | |
| Political Studies – specialty course | | | | |
| Quantitative methods | | | | |
| Qualitative methods | | | | |
| Methods elective | | | | |
| | | | | |

Health Systems & Society Field, Health Policy PhD – Course Planning Rubric (ver. February 2022)

Student's name:

Date (Day, Month, and Year):

"Prior" courses marked

| Requirement | Course | Waived? | Term Taken | Mark |
|---|---|----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Graduate-level statistics (admission requirement, completed prior to entry) | | | | |
| SGS 101 - Academic Research Integrity & Ethics SGS 201 - Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act | SGS 101 and SGS 201 (must be completed online within first 12 months) | N/A | | |
| HLTH POL 711 – Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy | HLTH POL 711 – required Fall year 1 | N/A | | |
| HLTH POL 711 – Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy | HLTH POL 711 – required Winter year 1 | N/A | | |
| Political Studies – breadth course | | | | |
| Health Economics – breadth course | | | | |
| Health Systems & Society – specialty course | | | | |
| Health Systems & Society – specialty course | | | | |
| Health Systems & Society – specialty course | | | | |
| Quantitative methods | | | | |
| Qualitative methods | | | | |
| Methods elective | | | | |
| | | | | |

II – Comprehensive examinations (3) are to be completed within the first 24 months of the program.

- Breadth Comprehensive Exam: assesses students' understanding and ability to apply and synthesize core material from all fields (health economics, political studies, and health systems & society).
- Methods Comprehensive Exam: assesses students' understanding of the core features of qualitative, quantitative and mixed (qual-quant) research methodologies and designs and their ability to design empirical studies to address current health policy problems.
- Specialty Comprehensive Exam: assesses students' in-depth knowledge of their chosen field of study (i.e. health economics, political studies, or health systems & society).
 - Students should consult with their supervisor and field leader to ensure they are familiar with the exam procedures for their particular field.

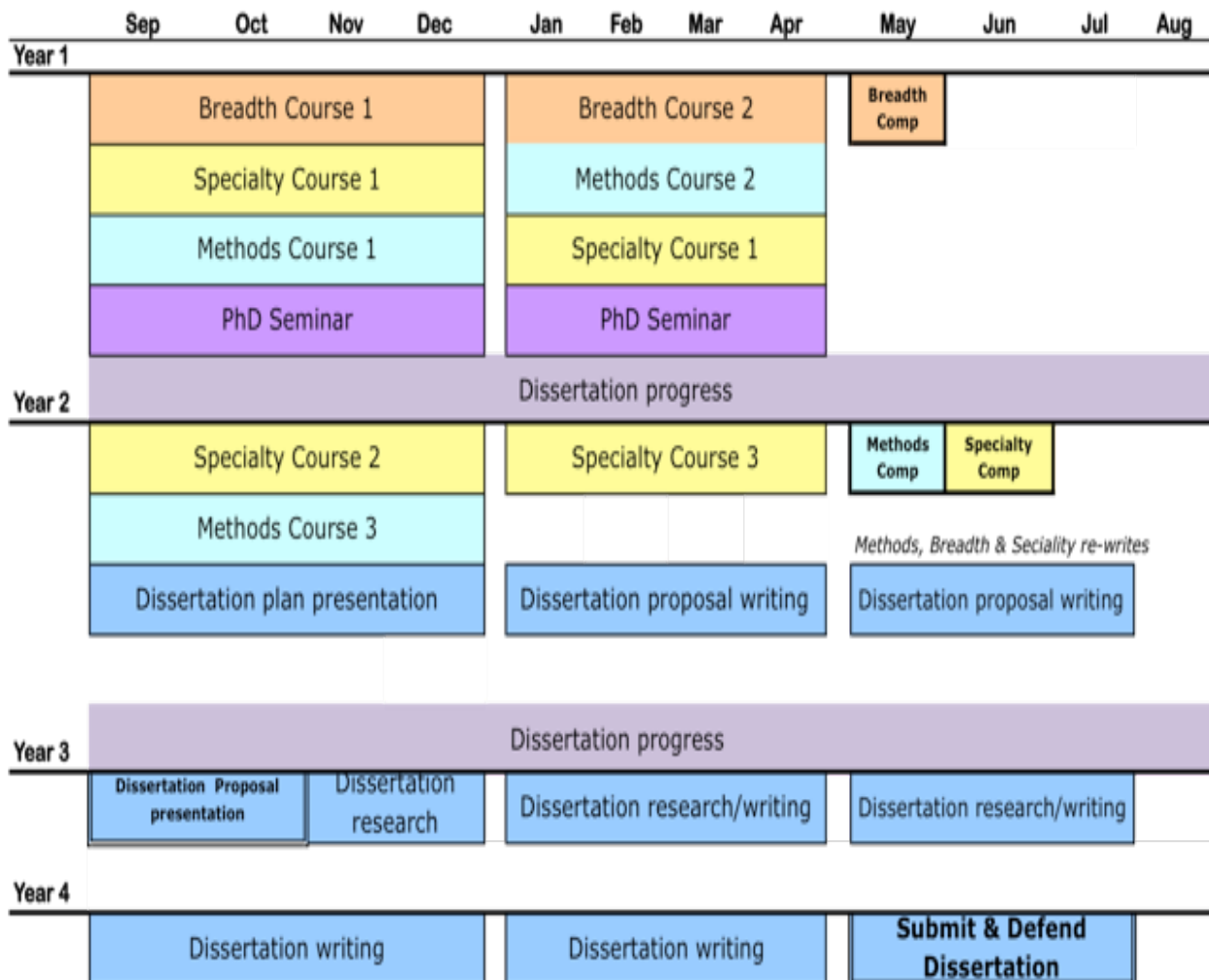
III – Dissertation (classic or sandwich)

Students will design, execute and write up a dissertation which constitutes a new contribution to knowledge, based on the student's original research. Students have an opportunity to draw on faculty supervisors' funded research projects, initiate their own study or studies, and use data resources at McMaster University. Development of the dissertation topic and proposal occurs in parallel to coursework and comprehensive exams. A well developed dissertation proposal is to be presented to student peers and program faculty members by no later than the Fall term of Yr 3.

Program Requirements – A Model Timeline for Completing Requirements

Comprehensive exam reading lists are typically released 7 to 8 months in advance.

Curriculum Timeline



Notes: This timeline represents the full courseload for students with no advanced standing. Most students will have one or more of these courses removed from their timeline because they have completed equivalent coursework before matriculation. A few students may also need to add remedial coursework (e.g., basic research design courses, introductory statistics, or introductory economics) to fulfill requirements for the graduate courses they desire in their field, or for their dissertation research.

CHECKLIST OF BASIC PROGRESS MILESTONES

This is a summary of basic milestones for completing the PhD degree while enrolled full time. Students and their supervisory committees should address each of these aspects of progress. This checklist is for convenient reference only, and should not be substituted for a detailed written *PhD Supervisory Committee Meeting Report*. Please see the Supervision Guide below for further guidance and details.

First year milestones

- A 3-member **supervisory committee** is selected and preferably in place by the 6th month
- All required **courses are scheduled** for completion by 24th month (end of 2nd year)
- All comprehensive **exams must be complete** by 24th month (end of 2nd year) allowing time for retakes
- A “**course planning rubric**” has been completed and filed with the Program within the first 3 months of the program
- Student is enrolled in a **full course load** (i.e. at least 3 courses per semester or 6 courses per academic year, until all required courses completed, pending waiver request approvals)
- If a graduate **statistics** course is required, it is scheduled for completion in Year 1
- All final course **marks are B or higher**; no “incompletes” outstanding; no failed courses
- Student has applied for all **financial awards** for which he/she is eligible to *apply*
- **Professional activities** are pursued appropriately and do not impede academic progress
- A promising **dissertation topic and questions/objectives** have been identified
- The program’s **professional development and competency tracking tool** has been reviewed and relevant professional development goals and skill-building priorities and opportunities have been identified

Second year milestones

- Courses are being completed and passed on schedule
- All required courses to be completed & passed by the 24th month (end of this year)
- Student is enrolled in a **full course load** (until required courses completed)
- A “**course planning rubric**” has been updated and filed with the Program
- **Comprehensive exams** are being scheduled, written and passed on schedule
- All comprehensive exams to be completed & passed **by 24th month** (end of this year)
- All final course **marks are B or higher**; no “incompletes” outstanding; no failed courses
- Student has applied for all **financial awards** for which he/she is eligible to *apply*
- **Professional activities** are pursued appropriately and do not impede academic progress
- A final **dissertation topic and questions/objectives** are committed to, formally presented (in HP 711) and approved (by supervisory committee)
- **Design and** methods for dissertation research are developed and the drafting of a protocol is underway
- Student continues to reflect on and identify **career and professional development goals** and opportunities in consultation with their supervisor and committee members

Third year milestones

- All final course **courses & comps were completed & passed by 24th month**
- All final course **marks were B or higher**; no “incompletes” outstanding; no failed courses
- A final, fully completed “**course planning rubric**” is filed with the Program

- Dissertation **proposal is formally presented** (to doctoral seminar with supervisors and committee members present) in Fall of Year 3
- **Final dissertation plans** are detailed, and judged acceptable and viable by faculty
- All **resources** necessary for completing dissertation research are secured
- All **approvals** (e.g., REB) necessary for completing dissertation research are secured
- Student has applied for all **financial awards** for which he/she is eligible to *apply*
- Student has submitted a realistic and acceptable **timeline** for completing dissertation
- Student and faculty have agreed on a **process for reviewing work** in progress
- Substantial progress is being made on the **dissertation research**
- Professional activities are pursued appropriately and do not impede academic progress
- Student identifies remaining **skill and competency gaps** and sets relevant professional development and career planning priorities in consultation with their supervisor and committee members

Fourth year milestones

- Substantial progress is being made on the **dissertation research and writing**
- **Timeline** for completion is kept up to date and is followed
- Student is **completing draft chapters** on a routine and non-urgent basis
- Faculty are receiving and **reviewing draft chapters** on a routine and non-urgent basis
- Student is completing revisions and **final chapters** on a routine and non-urgent basis
- Faculty are receiving and **approving final chapters** on a routine and non-urgent basis
- **Professional activities** are pursued appropriately and do not impede academic progress
- Post-graduate **career strategies** and opportunities are being discussed and pursued
- If 4th year completion becomes unlikely, **timely plans are made for late completion**, including arrangements for extended supervision and financial support
- Student is actively engaged in **career planning activities**

SUPERVISION GUIDE

Introduction and Resources

The Health Policy PhD Program provides this guide to help our faculty and students plan and assess student progress toward the PhD degree.

All students and supervisory committee members should be familiar with applicable University-wide policies. The following relevant documents are available from the School of Graduate Studies:

- *Graduate Calendar* – see especially Section 4, “Regulations for the Degree Doctor of Philosophy”, and the section entitled “Health Policy”
- *PhD Supervisory Committee Meeting Report* – an online reporting system completed by the student, supervisor, and supervisory committee (see next page for additional information)
- *Guide for the Preparation of Theses*

The Supervisor

Supervisors are assigned to students upon their admission to the Program. Students should work closely with their supervisors to plan their supervisory committee’s membership, financial support, courses, comprehensive exams, dissertation, and employment or appointments post-doctorate. Students should keep their supervisor informed of their academic professional activities and achievements, and advise them immediately of any academic problems or issues that may delay progress.

The student and supervisor should have a mutually agreeable plan for regular meetings. A recommended meeting frequency is at least monthly, if possible face-to-face. Students are primarily responsible for initiating these regular check-in meetings. They may also be initiated at the discretion of the supervisor. Supervisors may ask students to submit a written agenda, or summary of work in progress, ahead of scheduled meetings. Students may wish to submit a summary of the meeting afterward.

For detailed information review Sections 3.1 of the Graduate Calendar.

It is strongly recommended that each student-supervisor pair complete the [Getting the Supervisory Relationship off to a Good Start](#) template, which addresses expectations for Graduate Studies.

The Supervisory Committee

The *Graduate Calendar* describes regulations for the constitution and role of the doctoral supervisory committee. Please read and follow these carefully. Note that a full, 3-member committee should be in place by the student's 6th month in the Program, and at least 2 of these committee members must be Health Policy Program faculty members. Third committee members should be internal to McMaster. If a suitable internal committee member is not identifiable, a member external to McMaster can be identified; but, this person must be approved by Grad Studies (through the Program Director).

The supervisory committee keeps abreast of the student's academic and research activities and progress, and advises on these regularly. The committee approves: courses, research plans, the timing of comprehensive exams, the dissertation proposal, dissertation drafts in progress, and the final dissertation. The committee members serve as the internal examiners, and part of the examination committee, for the final oral defense of the dissertation. The committee periodically assesses and reports on the student's progress to the Program and the School of Graduate Studies. In the case of unsatisfactory progress, the supervisory committee initiates appropriate action (including possible recommendation to withdraw).

Supervisory Committee Meetings

Supervisory committees should meet regularly. Once the supervisory committee is in place (by the 6th month in the Program), the School of Graduate Studies expects students to hold at least one full supervisory committee meetings each academic year. **The Program requires two full supervisory committee meetings**, first between July 1 – December 15, and the second between January 1 and June 15. At least 3 months should elapse between the 2 required meetings. **It is the student's responsibility to schedule these meetings and book the (virtual) room and equipment well in advance, taking into consideration the committee members' busy schedule.** The PhD Supervisory Committee Meeting Report must be completed online and circulated (via online system) to the committee *prior* to each meeting.

Students will require more frequent supervisory committee meetings if they work more than 10 hours per week in paid employment while enrolled as a full-time graduate student or if their progress was assessed as "marginal" or "poor" by any supervisory committee member in the most recent supervisory committee meeting. Additional supervisory committee meetings (including meetings at shorter intervals) for other reasons may also be initiated by the student or by committee members, or required by the Program.

Students have primary responsibility for scheduling supervisory committee meetings. Students should schedule these meetings at least 1-2 months in advance, as it is not always easy to coordinate faculty schedules on shorter notice. The Program Administrator can provide guidance on room bookings,

presentation equipment, etc. Meetings should be scheduled for 1 ½ to 2 hours. They may be adjourned early if discussions and tasks are completed.

Students should distribute to supervisory committee members *at least 2 weeks* ahead of the meeting, the following materials:

- *An SGS PhD Supervisory Committee Meeting Report form with student and supervisor sections completed (done via online system; the Program Administrator will initiate the report),*
- *An up-to-date course planning rubric (until all courses and comps are completed)*
- *A current CV*
- *Additional materials (e.g., dissertation proposal, publication reprints, competency tracking tool) may also be distributed.*

Presentation slides should be distributed electronically *at least 2 days* ahead of the meeting, and hard copies brought to the meeting.

Supervisory committee meetings begin with an oral presentation by the student on their progress and plans. General discussion follows. In closing, committee members formally assess the student's progress. Committee members each assess independently, and need not agree. Ratings should accurately reflect progress (for example, "E" ratings should not be given by default, or to encourage rather than to assess the student).

The HP PhD Program recommends that the ratings options in the *PhD Supervisory Committee Meeting Report* be interpreted as follows:

- E** (Excellent) = The student has exceeded expectations in terms of academic and/or research progress. This rating may reflect exceptional initiatives taken by the student to address unexpected challenges in their course of study.
- G** (Good) = The student is meeting and achieving all expectations in terms of academic and/or research progress. There are no areas of concern with respect to meeting goals and milestones for research and academic progress. This rating is to be used for students who show promise for completing the degree in a timely manner.
- S** (Satisfactory) = The student is meeting and achieving most expectations in terms of academic and/or research progress. There is some concern around the pace and/or the meeting of goals and milestones for research and academic progress. The committee has some concerns with the student's skills growth and subject area expertise. This rating is to be used when the committee identifies areas for improvement and where some expectations at this stage of degree development are not being met. Details about concerns should be provided in Part C of the *PhD Supervisory Committee Meeting Report*.
- M** (Marginal)* = The student is meeting and achieving some expectations in terms of academic and/or research progress. There is significant concern around the pace and/or the meeting of goals and milestones for research and academic progress. The committee has significant concerns with the student's skill growth and subject area expertise. This rating is to be used when the committee identifies several areas for improvement and where significant expectations at this stage of degree development are not being met. Areas for improvement should be provided in Part C of the *PhD Supervisory Committee Meeting Report*.
- U** (Unsatisfactory)* = There is an unreasonably low rate of academic and/or research progress. The committee has serious concerns about the pace and/or the meeting of goals and milestones for research and academic progress, and whether these goals can be achieved in a reasonable period of time. Areas of serious concern should be provided in Part C of the *PhD Supervisory*

Committee Meeting Report. In cases where this category is used, the program should determine whether the student should be required to withdraw or be allowed to continue in the program until their next committee meeting.

*Where progress is deemed marginal or unsatisfactory, a detailed explanation of what must be accomplished over the next 6 months in order to remedy the situation but be included with the report.

All supervisory committee meetings must be documented in the *PhD Supervisory Committee Meeting Report* online system. The program administrator will initiate the report. Upon initiation of the report, you will receive an email from SGS with a URL to enable you to prepare your report.

Assessing Progress

The aforementioned are basic milestones of progress in the Health Policy PhD Program. Supervisory committee members should address all relevant milestones in every supervisory committee meeting. The written committee meeting report should document all achievements or problems (“red flags”) in relation to these milestones. Specific consequences for not reaching these milestones vary; please consult the Graduate Calendar, the Program Coordinator, or the Director of the Health Policy PhD Program for guidance on specific concerns. If formal, special considerations (approved and documented by SGS or Student Accessibility Service (SAS)) exist, these should be taken into account with expectations modified accordingly for the student.

Course Grading

Grades in HP PhD graduate courses are reported as letter grades as listed below (in accordance with the School of Graduate Studies):

| GRADE | GPA | | PERCENTAGE |
|-------|-----|---|-----------------------|
| A+ | 12 | = | 90 - 100% |
| A | 11 | = | 85 - 89% |
| A- | 10 | = | 80 - 84% |
| B+ | 9 | = | 77 - 79% |
| B | 8 | = | 73 - 76% |
| B- | 7 | = | 70 - 72% |
| F | 0 | = | 0-69% |
| INC | - | = | Incomplete Assignment |

Passing grades for Doctorial degree courses is B- and above. If a grade of less than B- is obtained, the student must retake the course, or one of equivalent content, which has been approved by the Program’s Executive Committee. Students should check with the specific funding agencies for their minimum grade requirements as outlined in the Graduate Calendar.

Course Failure

A student who fails to obtain at least a B- grade in a Graduate Course (Master’s or Doctoral) is normally asked to withdraw from the Graduate Program. In some cases, the student's Supervisory Committee may advise the Vice Dean (Health Sciences), Associate Dean of Graduate Studies (Health Sciences) that, because of certain circumstances, the student should: a) take an alternative course, or b) repeat the course. Such a recommendation should be made in writing by the Supervisor and Program Coordinator to the Vice Dean (Health Sciences), Associate Dean of Graduate Studies (Health Sciences) within one month of the student's

grade being announced, outlining the possible reasons for the failure. The Vice Dean (Health Sciences), Associate Dean of Graduate Studies (Health Sciences) will consider this request and recommend a course of action for consideration by the Faculty's Graduate Admissions and Study Committee.

Leave of Absence, Maternity/Parental Leave, Vacation

[See section 2.5.7 of the Graduate Calendar](#)

Ethics Review

Students whose work involves human subjects, including secondary data analyses, interviews, and chart-review, will need to seek approval through the Research Ethics Board (REB). Given the short timeline for completion, it is imperative to initiate the process of application early, in consultation with supervisors. Check the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board [HIREB](#) (for Health Sciences based research). or the McMaster Research Ethics Board [MREB](#) (for Social Science, Humanities, Engineering, Sciences or Business based research). The Research Ethics Board you apply to is dependent on your supervisor's home faculty. Review the website <https://research.mcmaster.ca/ethics/> for dates of drop-in consultations and seminars on the application process. If you are in doubt about whether your project will require an ethics review, please consult with your supervisor and/or the Program Director, who may encourage you to consult with the appropriate REB directly.

8 THINGS TO DO PRIOR TO BEGINNING YOUR DOCTORAL STUDIES

1. *Meet with Your Supervisor*

Course selections must be made in consultation with your faculty Supervisor. Therefore, schedule a meeting, Skype or phone call with your supervisor (in June/July) to organize your course rubric (shown on page 11, 12 & 13), so you're able to successfully enroll in courses during the summer months.

2. *Mandatory Courses and Course Waivers*

Coursework is normally completed during the first and second years of full-time study. Between 4-10 half courses are required. Courses are chosen from the list of recommended courses for each curriculum area.

Required courses include:

- 2 terms (half-courses) of the Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy (HLTH POL 711);
- 2-3 specialty field courses in a single field (health economics, political studies, or health systems & society);
- 0-2 breadth field courses outside the student's specialty field, one in each of the two fields other than the chosen specialty; and,
- 0-3 methodology courses, including both quantitative and qualitative, plus a methods elective.

Students without prior graduate training in a given area are required to take the maximum number of required courses for that area. Students who have completed relevant graduate courses prior to admission may have selected course requirements waived at the time of admission to the Health Policy PhD Program. A minimum of 4 half-courses (2 doctoral seminar courses, 2 specialty field courses) may not be waived and must be taken while the student is enrolled in the Health Policy PhD Program.

Waivership will be determined on the graduate level, year completed, minimum of a B+ grade, and course content, (through evaluation of the syllabus which must include the readings). Waivers are granted at the discretion of the Program Executive Members. No more than 50% of coursework may be waived in accordance with University academic regulations.

3. *Set up the following items (coloured titles are hyperlinked):*

Mac ID

New students will need to activate their MAC ID to provide you ongoing access to MOSAIC (the student portal), email, and Internet access on campus, among other things. You will need your student #, barcode # and date of birth. Follow the prompts to complete your MAC ID set up, and choose a password that you will use whenever accessing your MOSAIC account. Course registration via MOSAIC can be done at a later date, following consultation with your supervisor. Once the above steps have been completed you are fully registered. If you have any difficulty with your set-up, contact UTS or your Program Coordinator who will endeavor to identify the problem. UTS is located at BSB-245 ext. 24357 or uts@mcmaster.ca

Mosaic

This site allows you to view and change your personal information, view grades, use the MOSAIC course registration system, etc. [Contact UTS Help Desk](#) if you run into any difficulties with your set up or with accessing other McMaster e-resources. For further information please review <http://registrar.mcmaster.ca/enrol/steps/overview/>

Email Account

Once you have received your MAC ID and successfully set-up your McMaster email address through Mosaic please forward your email to Sheri, sburns@mcmaster.ca.

[LibAccess](#)

Permits access to restricted sites from the library catalogue (Journal Subscriptions, e-books, etc.)

[Mac-WiFi](#)

Public area wireless access (this includes the Graduate Student Resource room and Graduate Student Office).

[Anti Virus](#)

Software for your computer – this is available for free to all active students.

[MacVote](#)

McMaster's online voting system.

[Student Technology Services Computer Labs](#)

Labs are available across campus and include a fee-for-service basis print service.

4. Health and Safety Training

The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires that students be informed of the real and possible hazards at the university. Please log onto the link below which entails the mandatory requirements of McMaster University Grad Students and review the How to Complete Training and Proof of Training links. Watch any videos contained in the URL's, then complete the applicable test record following each video. Any in-class sessions require registration through Mosaic.

The intent of this record is to prove one's review of specific training materials. Once the forms are completed please forward the original or a copy to the EOHSS office, FHS Safety Office in HSC 1J11, email fhss@mcmaster.ca

- [Health and Safety Training for McMaster Students](#)

Check with your supervisor about any additional requirements for health and safety training you may require.

5. Academic and Research Integrity

As a student of McMaster University, it is essential that you are familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy and the Research Integrity Policy. Detailed information can be found through this link:

<https://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/>

Links for both the [Students and Instructors](#) provide valuable information, outlining how to avoid plagiarism, submitting work through [Turnitin.com](#) and what to do if you or students you are TAing are accused of academic dishonesty.

6. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

While we acknowledge that the use of Generative AI, such as ChatGPT, may be helpful to your learning, we require you to act with [academic integrity](#) when being assessed. Currently, Health Policy assessments have not been designed with Generative AI tools in mind and using them threatens the integrity of the assessment.

The main purpose of a university is the pursuit of knowledge and scholarship. As a student at McMaster University, you are expected to practice intellectual honesty and to fully

acknowledge the work of others by providing appropriate references in your scholarly work. You must not take credit for work that is not your own. Please note that the McMaster University Academic Integrity policy states under item 18(c) that “It shall be an offence knowingly to ... submit academic work for assessment that was purchased or acquired from another source”.

Please check with your course coordinator and the course outline for each course you take, as course coordinators will provide additional guidance for specific assessments. In general, the direct use of text originating from a Generative AI tool, beyond using the tool to correct grammar/spelling, should be included in quotation marks or equivalent and cited using a citation style appropriate for the context. Should the use of an AI assistant like ChatGPT be permitted for a particular assessment, you must be transparent by including a Generative AI statement as an appendix. This statement needs to declare the specific Generative AI tool used, the prompts used to create the submitted content, and for which sections/tasks in the assessment you used the tool. If you use Generative AI but do not declare this, the Course Coordinator will refer the case to the Office of Academic Integrity.

7. Mandatory Online Courses for all Graduate Students

All graduate students, including part-time students, must complete the following courses within the first four months they begin studies at McMaster. A graduate student may not obtain a graduate degree from McMaster or register for subsequent terms/years of their program without having completed these courses.

- SGS 101 Academic Research Integrity and Ethics (Register through Avenue to Learn)
- SGS 201 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) (Register on MOSAIC)

How to Register for SGS 101 and 201

- This course is designated as SGS 201 – sign up for the course through MOSAIC. Subject code is SGS, and course code is 201. Register for this course as D (Doctorate). The course content is offered by Accessibility at McMaster through EOHSS <https://accessibility.mcmaster.ca/>. They maintain the course content and a record of all McMaster students/staff etc. who have taken the course.
- If you have already taken the course, you do not need to take it again. You will need to provide verification (record of completion) that you have completed it.
- **All graduate students are required to pass these 2 courses during their first 3 months of the program to be "clear to graduate" or to continue in a subsequent academic session**, therefore we urge all students to register and complete these as soon as the fall term begins. Please refer to the School of Graduate Studies Calendar for further details, which can be found at: <https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/index.php?catoid=37>

Any problems can be reported to the Program Administrator or can be emailed to Graduate Studies Records at sgsrec@mcmaster.ca

If you encounter difficulties, please remember to include your student number, full name and program/department in any email inquiry along with a screenshot (if possible) of the problem you encounter or error message.

8. Update your agenda with the following

IMPORTANT SESSIONAL DATES 2023-2024

***Please save a copy of the current web page for your records**

Please visit the Registrar's Office website for important dates and deadlines (i.e statutory holidays, enrolment deadlines, etc). <https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/dates-and-deadlines/>

Storm closures are posted on the Daily News, through <https://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/>

FHS Graduate Programs Orientation Day and BBQ:

In August, you will receive an email invitation (along with the day's schedule of events) for the FHS Graduate Programs Orientation Day and BBQ, typically held at the beginning of September. The event will give you an opportunity to acquire new information, meet other grads on campus and take in some great entertainment. The day begins with a series of workshops organized by McMaster Institute for Innovation & Excellence in Teaching & Learning. These workshops are aimed at helping new and experienced TAs develop their teaching skills. The School of Graduate Studies hosts a Student Welcome Event. Departments across campus hold their own orientation sessions. The day closes out with a Welcome Dinnertime meal, hosted by the Graduate Student Association.

HP PhD Program Meet & Greet:

You will be receiving an invitation to the New Student lead Meet and Greet, held in early September. This casual social event will give you an opportunity to meet fellow students, faculty and staff from the Centre and Program and for us to meet you.

9. Apply for the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)

For Canadian residents, if you haven't already done so, update or apply for your OHIP. International students will need to do this upon your arrival.

The closest office to McMaster University is located at:

Health Care Services
119 King Street West, 10th Floor
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y7
(Ellen Fairclough Building, across from Jackson Square shopping mall)
(905) 521-7100
Hours of service: Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SETTLING IN – GETTING ORIENTED AND THINGS TO DO AS YOU GET STARTED

The HP PhD Program is located in the McMaster Hospital – in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact (HEI), which is area 2C. Our facility offers a variety of resources for your use and convenience:

HEI-2C

The 2C area is located on the 2nd floor between the purple and red areas. 2C is open 8am-430pm, Monday-Friday. Security card access is required for after hours and weekends. Sheri Burns will arrange for the provision of swipe cards.

Space

There are a variety of rooms available for your use. HEI uses an online booking system called Skedda. It can be accessed here: <https://hei.skedda.com/register?i=278483&k=TVBIQ67-wXAhBclRKPAXaOGgcpRF4o6>

There is a student room available with printers, lockers (please see Sheri for a locker assignment if needed) and communal desk space. The area is shared with other graduate students in HEI.

* Garbage is removed from the student room once every two weeks. To prevent unpleasant odors and pests, please place any food and other garbage in the kitchen garbage bin across from the reception area.

The common rooms are provided as a courtesy to students. Students are expected to share in the responsibility of maintaining and keeping them clean after use. In order to keep our environment pleasant, accessible to fellow students and facilities staff, please pick up and tidy up after yourself. Thank you.

Mail

Each graduate student will have a shared mailbox located in the 204A. If you have mail sent to you, please use the following address:

Your full name
c/o Sheri Burns
McMaster University
1280 Main St West; HSC 2C
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
L8S 4K1

Mail Services provides free, interdepartmental delivery across campus and also offers a free Inter-University Transit System (IUTS) to a number of local universities and related organizations. All outgoing mail must be placed in the folders beside the mail slots. Any mail other than IUTS or inter-departmental delivery must have a stamp placed on it or it will be returned to the student.

Social Media

The Health Policy PhD Program and CHEPA use *Twitter* to broadcast events and our involvement in them, such as conferences, the monthly CHEPA Seminar announcements and recordings. You can find us at <https://twitter.com/MacHPPHD> and <https://twitter.com/CHEPAMcMaster>

Inclement Weather and Emergency Closure

[McMaster Daily News](#) will announce when the University will be closed due to severe weather conditions. Alerts are also available on the [McMaster University Safety](#) application for your Smartphone or Tablet.

Public Bus Service, Campus Access and Community Perks

The Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) is public transportation bus system available to current, full-time students, through your supplementary fees. Cards are obtained at the campus bookstore during the start of the academic year. Your student ID card provides you access to University resources, such as the 4 campus

libraries; a Titles bookstore account; and the David Braley Athletic Centre Pulse Fitness Centre. A number of local restaurants offer current students a discounted rate when meals are purchased at their establishment.

Apply for your Social Insurance Number (SIN) if you don't already have one

The Social Insurance Number (SIN) is a nine-digit number that is needed to work in Canada or to have access to government programs and benefits. If you don't have a Social Insurance Number (SIN) apply immediately.

To obtain your SIN an **original** (primary document) is required:

- Visa Study/Employment Contract Authorization
- Letter of Offer received from the School of Graduate Studies on behalf of the HP PhD Program
- Proof of your Ontario address (lease, letter from landlord, bank statement, other mail, etc.)

Application available online at: [SIN Application Form](#)

Outreach Centres available at:

Old Town Hall (Tuesday only: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

60 Main Street, Main Floor (close to Hatt Street)

[Link to Service Canada - Old Town Hall](#)

Dundas, ON L9H 5E7

Hamilton City Hall (Friday only: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

71 Main Street West, 1st Floor (between Bay Street and MacNab Street)

[Link to Hamilton City Hall](#)

Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

REGISTRATION

The letter of admission from the Dean of Graduate Studies specifies that students should arrive on campus before undergraduate classes begin (normally on the first Thursday following Labour Day). Students holding teaching assistantships are expected to arrive the day after Labour Day.

You will receive an email regarding [Graduate Student Welcome Week](#), which is organized through Graduate Studies and the Student Success Centre. We encourage you to avail yourself to these events. Note: as part of the orientation program; all teaching assistants must be available to participate.

Much of the communication with students, both by the Program and the University, takes place via e-mail. Be sure to use your McMaster email account as soon as your login ID and password are assigned. Once you have your email account set up, it is REQUIRED that you inform the HP PhD office. This email address will be used by the Program and University to communicate with you, and for you to communicate with students if you have a TAship.

FUNDING AND EMPLOYMENT

Your funding support is outlined in your Letter of Offer, which you received, by email from the SGS Admissions Office. You will receive a detailed breakdown from the School of Graduate Studies the first week of September itemizing your gross monthly pay deposits. You must be enrolled in all 3 terms to receive a breakdown for the full academic year. You are wise to note any inconsistencies throughout the year, which will be essential for your budget planning. See related information under the heading 'Employment'.

Scholarships

All internal and external scholarship information is available on the School of Graduate Studies Website at [Graduate Scholarships](#). The major scholarships that would apply to HP PhD students are CIHR, Vanier, the Trudeau Foundation, Wilson Leadership Award, OGS and OGF. Please avail yourself, on a regular basis, to the details regarding application deadlines, eligibility criteria, the award value, and distribution schedule.

Travel/Conference Funding

Limited funding is available for travel for research and conferences through a competitive process. Please consult the School of Graduate Studies Calendar under "[Scholarships, Bursaries and Other Awards](#)" for details to determine eligibility for Travel Assistance, Bursaries and other grants.

Employment

Graduate students who are working as either a teaching assistant or research assistant will be paid on a twice per month basis. All other funding will be deposited on the last Thursday of each month. The exception is December when you will be paid earlier due to the holiday break. Tuition fees, miscellaneous fees, union dues, dental and health plan dues (if applicable), Employment Insurance and Canada Pension Plan premiums will be deducted from your monthly pay. Income tax return forms for your McMaster University employment can be found on Mosaic.

It is your responsibility to pay your tuition, due for each term, by the last business day of the first month of each term. If you receive a scholarship it will be deposited in a lump sum at the beginning of the academic term during the fall, winter and summer. Your TA/RA in Lieu will be paid biweekly, during the term you hold the TAship. Please note: your summer net income tends to be a lesser amount than your September-April income. *Please budget accordingly.* Feel free to see the Program Administrator to discuss the payments you will be receiving each month. Your work as a TA is governed by a collective agreement, which you can view

at: <https://cupe3906.org/>.

The collective agreement has important information on sick days, religious holidays, hours of work, and benefits.

It is mandatory that all pay be directly deposited into your bank account. You will receive a direct deposit form in your welcome package, please return it with a void cheque to the SGS office during your first week.

Additional Employment (Off- and On-campus employment)

Off-campus employment is not directly monitored by the School of Graduate Studies. However, there are regulations set out in the Graduate Calendar to ensure that students do not work beyond 20 hours per week, totaling 1005 hours per academic year for employment within the University. As per Section 5.2.1.: “No exceptions more than 1005 hours or more in a single academic year will be approved.”

If the student’s supervisor is not the hiring faculty, make certain you first seek permission from your primary supervisor to work any extra hours. A Special Premium Payment Form will need to be approved and submitted to Human Resources to have your future pay deposits adjusted, when the employment is in addition to your initial, annual financial support.

Forms Required for Payroll/ Payroll Set Up

- **Employee Contact & Deposit Form** is found under Additional Resources
 - at: <http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/hris/employee/index.php>
- **TD1*** Completed Federal Tax Form *Application available online at:* <http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/hris/employee/TD1/>
- **TD1ON*** Completed Provincial Tax Form *Application available online at:* <http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/hris/employee/TD1/>
- Complete the Employee Contact and Deposit Information Form from the hiring faculty member.
- International Students are to bring the original Visa study permit, issued from your home country, which is attached in your passport to the School of Graduate Studies front desk in Gilmour Hall 212. A photocopy will be taken for the School of Graduate Studies office records.

*TD1 for persons who live in Canada (Federal) **and** TD1ON for all persons employed in Ontario (Provincial) forms are used by McMaster University to determine the amount of federal and provincial or territorial **tax to be deducted** from the employment income.

Direct Deposit

Monthly student payroll is made through Direct Bank Deposit. A **Direct Deposit application** form must be completed and a **void cheque** is required to be attached. Please return the direct deposit application to the School of Graduate Studies (Gilmour Hall, Room 212).

Health and Dental Benefits

The McMaster Graduate Students Association (GSA) represents McMaster Graduate Students. Log into www.ihaveaplan.ca using ‘McMaster University (GSA)’ (McMaster GSA Health and Dental Plan 20639) for comprehensive coverage.

http://www.ihaveaplan.ca/RTEContent/Document/EN/Brochure/Current_GSA_MCMMASTER.pdf

CUPE 3906 represents teaching assistants, demonstrators, tutors and super tutors, markers, and research assistants who receive a research assistantship in lieu of teaching assistantship.

* If students already have coverage via another plan, they must opt-out of both GSA and CUPE plans before early September.

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

New International Students who register in September must provide the School of Graduate Studies with photocopies of their Student and/or Employment Authorizations once they arrive. New and returning International Students who have recently renewed their visa documents must submit copies to the front desk of the School of Graduate Studies, Gilmour Hall (Room 212) as soon as possible to avoid the extensive lineups. Student number and Program name (Health Policy PhD Program) should be included on all copies. It is the responsibility of every International Student to make sure the School of Graduate Studies has a copy of his/her most recent visa documents. If these documents are not provided on time, it will be necessary to withhold student pay deposit until they are received.

University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) for International Students

It is essential that all international students have proper medical insurance coverage while in Canada. Please read this section carefully. Full details are available from the International Students' Services (ISS) webpage, available at: <https://iss.mcmaster.ca/>

The University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) is a comprehensive plan that is for international students only. The plan provides doctors' services, hospital ward accommodation, all maternity claims (even if pregnancy began before you arrived to Ontario), and coverage for medical care outside of Ontario or Canada. The plan is compulsory and students will not be permitted to register unless they purchase UHIP. Students may purchase additional coverage under UHIP if they intend to stay in Canada after completion of their studies or would like to travel outside of Canada. (Please note that UHIP does not cover the cost of prescription drugs and dental work. These expenses are covered by the GSA and CUPE insurance plans.)

For more information about applying for UHIP, fees, and obtaining your UHIP card, visit [ISS UHIP information](#) or email uhip@mcmaster.ca.

International Student Services (ISS)

The International Student Services [office](#) provide guidance to support the international student's concerns and needs.

Gilmour Hall, Room 110

Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 24254

Web: <https://iss.mcmaster.ca/> Email: iss@mcmaster.ca

ISS offers information and services for international students in a variety of areas, including immigration matters, University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP), work/study MacAbroad, and more.

HANDY CAMPUS RESOURCES

Libraries

1. Health Sciences Library – Faculty of Health Sciences, 2nd floor
2. Mills – Humanities and Social Sciences
3. Innis – DeGroote School of Business
4. Thode – Science & Engineering
5. Mohawk College Library – Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS), 1st Floor

To borrow materials through the Health Sciences Library, log onto:

<http://hsl.mcmaster.ca/materials/borrowing/>

For borrowing audiovisual equipment, log onto: <http://hsl.mcmaster.ca/services/computers/index.html>

As a McMaster Graduate student, you can also get a “Reciprocal Borrower” card at university libraries across Canada: <https://library.mcmaster.ca/services/ill>

Housing



[Off Campus Housing](#)

MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Excellence in Teaching

The Paul R. MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Excellence in Teaching is a resource for everyone who teaches at McMaster University. Their services include workshops, seminars, symposia, peer consulting, learning technology and resources for teaching (Avenue to Learn support). The MI sponsors Graduate Student Day and coordinates the TA Network.

Located in Mills Library L-504

For general inquiries contact:

Tel: (905) 525-9140, ext. 24540

Email: mi@mcmaster.ca

Web: [MacPherson Institute](#)

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre strives to be a hub of excellence that inspires all McMaster students to know themselves, explore their potential and contribute to the prosperity of their community. No appointment is necessary, although you will be required to sign-in when you arrive to reserve your spot. The internal relationships are based on a foundation of trust, respect and open communication where each person exemplifies our team values

Located in Gilmour Hall, Room B110

Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 24254

Web: <https://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/> Email: studentsuccess@mcmaster.ca

Student Accessibility Services

SAS assists with academic and disability-related needs. This support is available to students who have been diagnosed with a disability or disorder, such as a learning disability, ADHD, mental health diagnosis, chronic medical condition, sensory, neurological or mobility limitation. Student Accessibility Services is committed to ensuring that all students are treated with respect, dignity and without prejudice, while making a positive difference in one’s life. Personal growth and academic success of students, regardless of their background, stage of life, or abilities is the fundamental objective of SAS.

- [Academic Accommodation Plans](#)
- [Learning Strategies](#)
- [Assistive Technologies](#)
- [Test & Exam Administration](#)
- [Notetaking](#)

- [Transition Program](#)
- [SAS Lounge and Events](#)

Located in the McMaster University Student Centre (MUSC), Room B107

Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 28652

Web: <https://sas.mcmaster.ca/> Email: sas@mcmaster.ca

Student Wellness

The Student Wellness Centre offers various services to support personal, psychological, and academic growth. Staffed by highly qualified service providers, (family physicians; personal counselors; registered nurses; psychologists; psychiatrists and wellness educators) with a special interest in university students, they provide student-centered, accessible, confidential, and caring services for you. Students who require sustained psychological support can be referred to community resources through the Student Wellness Centre. For more information, visit them at:

Located in the McMaster University Student Centre (MUSC) B101

Web: <https://wellness.mcmaster.ca/>

The Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3906 (CUPE)

Contact the GSA concerning your health benefits, travel and other funding, and graduate student organizations. The GSA represents the members (all graduate students) before the authorities of McMaster University, and promotes communication and participation in all matters of common interest of the members of the Association, both at McMaster and in other educational institutions. The GSA owns and operates the Phoenix restaurant and bar.

Located in Kenneth Taylor Hall B111

Tel: (905) 525-9140, ext. 24003

Web: <http://cupe3906.org/> E-mail: staff@cupe3906.org

CUPE represents Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants, Sessional Lecturers, and hourly-rated Music Instructors.

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA)

Located in Refectory Rathskeller Building East Tower, 2nd Floor

Tel: (905) 525-9140, ext. 22043 Web: <https://gsamcmaster.org> E-mail: macgsa@mcmaster.ca

School of Graduate Studies (SGS)

Contact Grad Studies for issues concerning payroll, scholarships, and registration.

Located in Gilmour Hall, Room 212

Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23679 or Fax: (905) 521-0689

Web: <https://graduate.mcmaster.ca> Email: askgrad@mcmaster.ca

Security and Parking

For emergencies, dial 88 on any campus phone. The security and parking services provide a safe and protected environment to staff, students, and visitors. In addition, it offers a well-structured parking arrangement. McMaster University also offers various options for transportation, such as GO transit, carpool parking, biking, and the Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) city bus.

Located in the ET Clarke Centre

Web: <http://parking.mcmaster.ca>

OTHER USEFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

[Sessional Dates – Graduate Studies](#)

[Graduate Course Selection](#)

[Student Financial Dates and Deadlines](#)

[Graduate Students Payroll Information](#)

[School of Graduate Studies Guide for the Preparation of Theses](#)

[School of Graduate Studies Final Thesis Submission Sheet](#)

[School of Graduate Studies Forms](#)

This guide contains general information for individuals entering the Health Policy PhD Program, though is not all-inclusive. The current, official publication of the [School of Graduate Studies Calendar](#) should be referenced for complete information regarding your academics.

Please note: If there is any discrepancy between a department or program handbook and the School of Graduate Studies Calendar, then the School of Graduate Studies Calendar shall prevail. Thank you.

FROM YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS
 Get your teeth cleaned before TA benefits run out
 Use your heavy burden week wisely

Check out The Casbah for the best live music in Hamilton

Check out Grit Lit, Hamilton's Literary Festival
gritlit.ca



Appreciate the intellect of your colleagues and use it!

Get a student membership to the Hamilton Art Gallery.



IDEAS
 TIPS



Buy a bike or rollerblades for getting around Hamilton



Be creative and challenge your assumptions.

Go to weekly coffees with each other, start socializing early!

Take advantage of the Institute's invited speakers and other events.



Check out the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) office (MUSC-229) and the Sky Dragon Centre (27 King William Street).



Sleep at least 5 hours/night

Get to know your professors



Go waterfalling (waterfalls.hamilton.ca). Hamilton is the waterfall capital of the world with over 120 waterfalls?