



MSW CRITICAL ANALYSIS PROGRAM HANDBOOK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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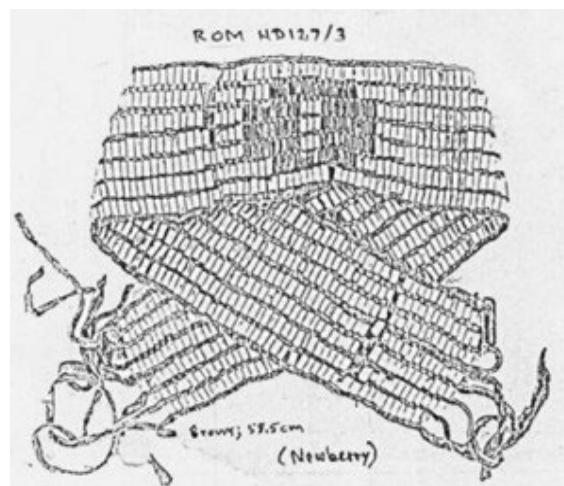
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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As many of us are settlers on this land, it is our collective responsibility to recognize, respect and acknowledge that the School of Social Work at McMaster University meets and learns on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the “Dish with One Spoon” Wampum.

The Dish with One Spoon wampum belt represents the first peace treaty made in North America between all Native nations before European contact. (Made between the League of Five Nations and its allies, and the confederacy of Anishinabek and allied nations). The dish with one spoon reminds people we only have one dish; one mother earth we can take from. We should take only what we need, leave something for others, and keep the dish clean. It also demonstrates our collective responsibility to share equally. The dish is graphically represented by the wampum pictured.



Why we acknowledge the land

For people who are not Indigenous to North America, or for Indigenous peoples who are on territories that aren't their own, a land acknowledgment recognizes the First Nation(s) on whose land we live and work. It asks those gathered to understand the history that has removed many First Nations from their traditional land. This symbolic acknowledgment recognizes the real impact of colonization, and draws attention to its ongoing effects. This acknowledgment also encourages us to seek and find the beauty associated with all Indigenous cultures in ways that challenge how we think and respond to the violent history of colonialism on these peoples.

Canada's history is a colonial history

Indigenous people have been living on the land that is now called Canada for thousands of years. Since the 17th century however, settlers have been laying their claim to the land and violently forcing Indigenous groups out of the way. It is estimated that North America's Indigenous population was reduced by 80 percent by the mid-19th century.

Starting in the late 19th century, the Canadian government established Indian Residential Schools. These schools forced young Indigenous children away from their parents and communities and attempted to

eliminate the Indigenous languages and cultures of its students. This policy remained in place until the 1990s. In the 1960's Canadian child protection policies reinforced these practices through what is referred to as the '60's scoop' which supported the removal of Indigenous babies and children from their homes and communities. Despite this, Indigenous peoples have remained a strong and vital part of Canada. By acknowledging that Canada's history is a colonial history, we recognize the violence of settler-colonialism and the necessity for reconciliation. It reminds us also of our moral and ethical duty to join Indigenous peoples in ally ship to confront this continuing history.

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada published 94 "calls to action" urging all levels of government — federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous — to work together to change policies and programs in a concerted effort to repair the harm caused by residential schools and move forward with reconciliation.

The McMaster School of Social Work acknowledges and is committed to responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

We urge our entire school community to familiarize themselves with the [Canadian Association for Social Work Education Statement of Complicity and Commitment to Change](#).

The McMaster School of Social Work would like to acknowledge the multiple sources of information we have accessed in order to develop this Land Acknowledgement. This includes faculty in the McMaster School of Social Work, the Toronto Metropolitan University School of Social Work, and the AIDS Committee of Toronto.

Director: Saara Greene

Welcome to the McMaster School of Social Work!

Social Work has always been concerned with the entanglement of private troubles and public issues and committed to the enhancement of social justice. We aim to prepare students for practice, research and leadership in a wide variety of social and community services and for critical reflection on their activities as both professionals and citizens. Through our research, teaching and community engagement, we explore the tensions in contemporary social programs and, in the context of a changing world, strive to understand and challenge various forms and dynamics of social inequality. We hope this handbook will serve as an important resource for you during your time in the program.

I can be contacted in the School of Social Work office:
greenes@mcmaster.ca; 905-525-9140, ext. 22740; KTH 319

Graduate Chair: Ameil Joseph

Welcome to the MSW Critical Analysis program, and to our School!

As the chairperson of the Graduate Studies Committee I have responsibility for overseeing the MSW and PhD programs and supporting graduate students' progress through their program. Students should feel free to contact me if they have any questions or concerns about the program:

ameilj@mcmaster.ca; 905-525-9140, ext. 23792; KTH-309

Graduate Administrative Assistant: Darlene Savoy & Danielle Schumacher

Welcome to the School of Social Work!

As the Graduate Administrative Assistant, we deal with all aspects of the administration of the MSW program and am knowledgeable about matters concerned with School and University policies, admissions, registration, student records, payroll, etc. If you have concerns or questions about these matters, we can be contacted in the School of Social Work office:

dsavoy@mcmaster.ca; 905-525-9140, ext. 24596; KTH-322

schumacd@mcmaster.ca; 905-525-9140, ext. 23787; KTH-319

PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

As social workers, we operate in a society characterized by power imbalances that affect us all. These power imbalances are based on age, class, ethnicity, gender identity, geographic location, health, ability, race, sexual identity and income. We see personal troubles as inextricably linked to oppressive structures. We believe that social workers must be actively involved in the understanding and transformation of injustices in social institutions and in the struggles of people to maximize control over their own lives.

INTRODUCTION

This handbook is prepared for graduate students as a general orientation to the MSW Critical Analysis Program. It outlines the focus of the program and a range of policies and procedures around which it is organized, as well as some information on the structure of the [School of Social Work](#) and opportunities for student participation. Additional information on many of these points and on the wider university can be found in the current School of Graduate Studies (SGS) [Calendar](#). **If there is any discrepancy between this handbook and the SGS Calendar, then the School of Graduate Studies Calendar shall prevail.**

We hope that these materials help to situate you in the School of Social Work and the graduate program and to navigate the various academic and administrative channels that structure the program. Please feel free to ask the School's staff, Grad chair and faculty for any information or direction that you need in the course of your studies.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL: OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

The operation of the School of Social Work is framed by a structure of committees. Student participation is mandated on each of them and welcomed as a means of incorporating students' perspectives and feedback into the running of the School and the development of curriculum. A [chart](#) which summarizes this structure and specifies reporting and consultative relationships may be found on the [School of Social Work Committees](#) website.

There are three committees in particular in which graduate students are involved; these are outlined below.

Graduate Studies Committee

Membership of the Graduate Studies Committee (G.S.C.) includes three faculty members and three students; 2 MSW, and 1 PhD.

The mandate of the Graduate Studies Committee includes the following:

- To monitor and support the graduate program in accordance with the School's [philosophy](#), [CASWE standards](#), [IQAP requirements](#) and [University regulations](#).
- To engage in planning and curriculum development.
- To undertake admissions and recruitment, and from time to time review admissions procedures and practices.
- To enable and support graduate student participation in the life of the School.

- To make recommendations to and advise the Faculty Committee and Director.

Circle of Indigenous Social Work Action

Membership: Aboriginal students, alumnae and community members, Undergraduate and Graduate Program Chairs and one other faculty member.

The mandate of this group is to support and monitor the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal students, with the goal to reducing barriers to admission, enhancing students' experience in the School and University, and linking with local Aboriginal communities. To support and learn from Aboriginal students experiences of social work education. To make recommendations to and advise the Faculty Committee and Director.

Meets at least twice a year and is co-chaired by a faculty member designated by the Director and a community member/ alumnae.

People Key to The MSW Critical Analysis Program

In addition to the Graduate Administrative Assistant and the Grad Chair (see page i), the **Thesis Supervisor** is key to a student's participation in the program.

In the [MSW Critical Analysis Program](#) students carry out their research with the advice and guidance of a thesis supervisor. An outline of each faculty member's research and writing is included in the orientation package, which students receive after being admitted to the program. To supplement this material and to facilitate early connections with potential supervisors, faculty members available for research supervision attend graduate student orientation in late August/early September: this is an opportunity for students to learn about faculty members' research interests and their approaches to supervision. Other opportunities for students to connect with faculty members are scheduled throughout the fall term. Students are encouraged to meet with potential thesis supervisors early in the first term. A thesis supervisor is generally chosen in early-mid November. A list of faculty available for research supervision and their bios will be sent to students in late August.

THE MSW CRITICAL ANALYSIS PROGRAM

The School of Social Work offers a unique **thesis-based Masters of Social Work program**. There are three avenues by which students engage in research.

- Students work with a thesis supervisor to develop a program of research on a topic related to social work practice, social work policy or social work education. The topic may be of the student's own choosing.
- Students work with a faculty member on an existing research project: in this

instance the student and faculty member would identify a particular aspect or research question of the larger project for the student to focus on.

- Students work with a community agency or group – under the supervision of a faculty member – on an existing project: in this instance the student, faculty member and community researcher would identify a particular aspect or research question of the larger project for the student to focus on.

Students are encouraged to talk to faculty members about these options to determine which option works best for them.

Core courses introduce students to different theoretical perspectives and current debates concerning the origins of social problems and the development of social work responses to them. Courses are designed to foster an understanding of the material, ideological, political, and historical contexts in which social and personal problems are defined and become the objects of social work attention. They are also designed to enhance students' understanding of how these broader contextual forces are embedded in everyday practice settings. Students are equipped to engage in the critical analysis of the role of social work in the context of social welfare. A unique feature of the program is attention to the intersection of practice, policy, research and education in the inner workings of social agencies and in social change efforts at the community level. Issues of power and privilege are addressed throughout the program and emphasis is placed on the challenges of moving toward more inclusive and socially just practice, policy, research and education in the future. A commitment to critical analysis in the service of social justice underpins this program.

Candidates may be enrolled on a full- or part-time basis. Full-time students will typically complete the program in twelve consecutive months of study. Part-time students will typically be expected to complete the program within three years.

The program is accredited by the [Canadian Association for Social Work Education](#) as a graduate program in social work.

Like all graduate programs at McMaster, it is shaped by the standards and procedures of the School of Graduate Studies. Thus, matters concerned with registration, procedures and evaluation are channeled through the [School of Graduate Studies](#), which is located in Gilmour Hall, Room 212.

CONTENT OF THE MSW CRITICAL ANALYSIS PROGRAM

Graduate Course Work

The MSW: Critical Analysis of Social Work curriculum has three main components:

1. Required courses that provide the content and methodological skills necessary for the analysis of social policy, social work practice and education;
2. Elective courses that enable students to deepen their knowledge of social work practice, policy and education in the inner workings of social agencies and in social change efforts at the community level.
3. Thesis designed to integrate analytical and evaluative skills and to contribute to the critical analysis of social work practice, policy and education.

Graduate Course Requirements

Students are required to take 18 units of [course work](#). Note: All courses are half or one-term courses (Fall or Winter), except SW739 which runs over all three terms (Fall, Winter and Spring/Summer). Specific course requirements for the MSW program are outlined in the School of Graduate Studies [Calendar](#) and also outlined below. Three courses are required and two are elective.

Required Courses:

Two Half Courses:

- 700 / Epistemology and Social Work Practice
- 701 / Social Policy: Critical Frameworks

One full course (over all three terms):

- 739 / Critical Approaches to Social Work Knowledge and Research Methods

Two Elective Courses:

i) At least one of:

- 721 / Changing Communities: Tensions and Possibilities for Citizenship and Social Justice
- 740 / Changing Social Service Organizations: Implications for Workers and Service Users
- SocSci 708/ Critical Approaches to Community-Based Research, OR
- a graduate level course linked with the student's program of study offered by Social Work OR by another department or academic unit (provided that permission has been obtained from those departments or academic units, and School of Social Work's Graduate Chair).

ii) One additional elective

Electives may be either: courses offered in the School of Social Work or courses taken in other graduate programs at McMaster. It is possible for a graduate student

registered at McMaster University to take a graduate course at another Ontario university for credit toward the McMaster degree. To do so, the student must download the [Ontario Visiting Graduate Student](#) form found on SGS Student Forms & Guide webpage, and click on “Ontario Visiting Graduate Student Information” link to download the form. Please describe the course to be taken, the term in which it will be taken, and the reasons for taking the course. Approval of the Graduate Chair (ameilj@mcmaster.ca) is required before the form is submitted for approval to the School of Graduate Studies, which will send it to the host university. *The course selected must be required for the student's program, must be a graduate level course, and must not be available at McMaster University.*

Courses available for graduate credit are mostly numbered at the 700 level; they are typically restricted to graduate students. A few courses are offered from time to time at the 600 level; they are available to senior undergraduates and to graduate students. Graduate students taking 600 level courses are required to do extra course work if the course is to be taken for graduate credit. The categories of graduate courses are M (Masters), and EC (Extra Course). ***The passing grades for all graduate courses are A+, A, A-, B+, B and B-. (For information on procedures regarding failing or incomplete grades, see p. 13.)***

Nine Mandatory Online Courses for Graduate Students

All graduate students are mandated by McMaster University and provincial legislation to complete two SGS courses and seven health and safety training courses by September 30th.

Two SGS Courses:

- SGS 101 / Academic Research Integrity and Ethics (Passing Grade: 14/20);
- SGS 201 / Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act – AODA Training (Passing Grade: 10/10)

*** Note: You must wait until you are officially registered (after September 1st) to start completing these courses.**

Students are required to register for SGS 101 and SGS 102 courses on [Mosaic](#); please search for the courses using the “class search” button and then enter “SGS”. After one (1) business day, students will be able to log in to [Avenue to Learn](#) to complete the courses. Please see the Self-Service Training Enrollment guide for instructions on [how to enroll](#) in online courses.

Seven Health & Safety Training Courses:

In addition to the School of Graduate Studies courses, students are also required to complete seven (7) [Health and Safety training courses](#) (click on “employees” tile):

- Asbestos Awareness;
- Ergonomics;
- Fire Safety;
- Slips, Trips and Falls;
- WHMIS 2015;
- Health and Safety Orientation;
- Violence and Harassment Prevention.

Step 1: Register on Mosaic via the Regulatory Training tile on your homepage OR the following pathway:

- NavBar > Navigator > Human Resources > Self Service > Learning and Development > Request Training Enrollment

Step 2: “Search by course name” > Leave search field blank > “Search” > “View available sessions” and proceed with your registration until reaching “Submit”

- Please disregard the start/end date of online training. These are used for administration purposes and will not affect your registration or course completion.

Step 3: For online sessions only. After one business day the courses will appear in Avenue to Learn for completion.

- Log in with your MacID and complete the training found under term “Continuing”.

Step 4: After successful completion of online training, your training record will be updated in Mosaic the following business day. This can be viewed under “My Academics” and click on “View Unofficial Transcript”, or via the Regulatory Training tile on your Mosaic homepage OR the following pathway:

- Nav Bar > Navigator > Human Resources > Self Service > Learning and Development > Request Training Summary

Step 5: Save or print a copy of your summary as proof of completion for your supervisor and/or department administrator. All records for health and safety training completed before 2015 are stored in our historical database.

Students who are interested in viewing their training record can do so by following the steps outlined in the [Instructions to obtain your training record](#).

It is the student's responsibility, in consultation with their program, to ensure that all course requirements have been satisfied; once satisfied, the student's program office will inform the School of Graduate Studies that the student is ready to proceed to graduation.

Graduate Thesis Requirement

Each student is required to complete a thesis. It offers students an opportunity to build upon their particular experiences and interests and upon perspectives and materials introduced in courses, and to demonstrate their capacities for critical analysis. The thesis (12,500 words) is supervised by a faculty member and orally examined by a committee including the supervisor and two other faculty members (a chair and a second reader). **Please refer to current [MSW Thesis Handbook](#)**, which is updated on our website every Fall and emailed to students around mid-October for further details.

It is your Supervisor's responsibility to run your thesis through [iThenticate](#) software to check thesis for plagiarism to confirm it is satisfactory for public disclosure. Once this is done, you may initiate your oral exam. IThenticate can be used prior to final submission so that any issues can be addressed prior to final submission for examination.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is the student's responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3 at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>.

[POLICIES, PROCEDURES & RESOURCES](#)

Registration Procedure

Registration information, forms, dates, etc. are emailed directly to the student from the School of Graduate Studies around mid-July. In addition, the School of Social Work emails in June with information on orientation, faculty research interests,

payroll (for MSW students with scholarships and/or assigned a Teaching Assistant (TA) or Research Assistant (RA) position), timetables, parking and key information.

Policies

Graduate students register in July. Until they graduate or withdraw students must register annually in July and pay fees. If they fail to re-register they do not retain the status of graduate student and must apply for re-admission if they wish at a later date to continue their studies.

Addition or Deletion of Courses

Any change in registration in the course program must be made before the specified dates in the Academic Calendar (see [Section 2.5.9: Appeals and Petitions](#)). After the deadline, such changes will only be possible through special action of the appropriate Committee on Admissions and Study. Please see [SGS Graduate Resources](#) and click on “Petition for Special Consideration” form.

For each term there is a deadline date by which full-time and part-time registrations must be received (see School of Graduate Studies Calendar, [Sessional Dates](#)). A student dropping courses after that date in the term, will not receive academic credit for any work completed in that term, but will be expected to incur the course fee. Students are not permitted to register in courses after the deadline.

Once all course work is complete, you MUST register in the SGS-700 placeholder course in all three terms that you are registered so that tuition fees may be assessed accordingly and that scholarship and/or TA/RA payments can be made. If you do not see a scholarship and/or TA/RA payment and are expecting one, please make sure you are fully enrolled (an academic or placeholder course) in all three terms (Fall, Winter & Spring/Summer).

Failure to achieve a passing grade in a course

Students who have failed to make the required standing (B-) in any course will not be granted supplemental privilege and their standing will be reported either as failed or incomplete. A student whose record indicates a failure (anything below a B-) will be required to withdraw unless the School of Graduate Studies Committee on Graduate Admissions and Study has approved a recommendation from the School to allow the student to continue in the program.

Incomplete Course Grades

Under exceptional circumstances a course instructor may approve an extension for the student for the completion of work in a course and assign an [Incomplete grade](#) (INC). Typically this extension is in the range of a few weeks. The appropriate form requesting consideration of an Incomplete may be obtained from the Graduate Administrative Assistant in the School of Social Work office. See *the School of Graduate Studies Calendar for the full specification of regulations concerning incompletes*.

Leave of Absence

Typically, students in the MSW program are only eligible for a leave of absence (for up to one year) due to illness. Students who have successfully completed at least one full year in a graduate program may apply for a [Leave of Absence](#) once (for up to one year) for other personal circumstances. *Please see SGS Calendar, [Section 2.5.7](#) for more details.*

Accommodation Procedures

Students with disabilities, needing academic accommodation for degree completion, or any student who suspects they may have a disability for which some type of academic accommodation may be necessary, should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to arrange a time to meet with a SAS Program Coordinator. A range of accommodations, supports and funding can be reviewed to assist with degree completion requirements. SAS is located in the basement of MUSC, Room B107 or can be reached by telephone at extension 28652.

Many graduate students are also employed by the University as TAs or RAs. Students requiring workplace accommodations, or who are experiencing accommodation-related issues related to their employment as TAs or RAs, should contact [Employee Health Services](#).

The School of Social Work recognizes that people learn and express their knowledge in different ways. We are committed to reducing barriers to accessibility in the classroom, and working towards classrooms that welcome diverse learners. Students who have accessibility concerns or who want to talk about their learning needs are also invited to talk to their instructor or the graduate chair.

Appeal Procedures

Students have a right to fair and equitable procedures for lodging and hearing of complaints arising out of University regulations, policies and actions that might affect them directly. A mark in a graduate course that is not in accordance with the student's needs or hopes is not in itself grounds for a [formal appeal](#). Therefore, in appeals with respect to academic standing or status, the graduate student should, in every case, consult with the course instructor first of all, then, the Graduate Chair and then the Director of the School prior to the Dean of Graduate Studies before seeking a formal review of any allegation of injustice with respect to academic standing or status.

If, after these consultations, the student remains of the opinion that they have suffered an injustice, they may petition the Committee of Graduate Admissions and Study for a formal ruling on the allegation. If the allegation involves a written examination, essay or research paper, the student may request, or the Faculty's Committee may institute, a re-read procedure as part of the consideration of the

allegation. The subsequent ruling by the Committee on Graduate Admissions and Study on a matter of substantive academic judgement will be final.

If, in a matter that does not only involve a judgement of academic substance, the student is of the opinion that the Faculty's Committee on Graduate Admissions and Study has not satisfied the allegation of injustice, they are required to meet with the Dean of Graduate Studies to discuss the matter. At such a meeting they may be accompanied by a friend or counsellor. If, after that meeting, they are still unsatisfied, they may appeal in writing to the Senate Board for Student Appeals for a final adjudication of the grievance. [The University Secretariat](#), Gilmour Hall, room 210, will provide all members of the University Community with definitive information on where and how to seek redress for particular grievances or where and how to make representation for changes in policy on any given matter.

Supervisorships

Information on student and supervisor responsibilities and expectations can be found in [Section 3.1](#) of the SGS Calendar. Occasionally a conflict or concern may arise between student and supervisor. The student and supervisor are encouraged to discuss the conflict or concern and attempt to resolve such. If the concern has not been resolved, they should consult the Grad Chair or School Director. If this avenue is not sufficient, the student is encouraged to speak with the appropriate Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. Information on changing supervisors can also be found in Section 2.7.

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Internal Scholarships

Academic Prizes

Three prizes are available for award to Social Work MSW Critical Analysis students each year (**subject to funding**):

Judge Hugh C. Arrell Memorial Prize

Eligibility

The Arrell Prize is awarded annually to the MSW Critical Analysis graduand who submitted the strongest thesis. The successful recipient will have received the highest mark by their Supervisor and Second Reader on the MSW Thesis Arrell Prize Review form.

Assessment

In the event of a tie for highest score on the MSW Thesis Arrell Prize Review form, theses will be assessed by one faculty member and last year's Arrell Prize recipient.

Decisions regarding the recipient should be made before December 1 of the following year. Notification of the recipient will be made as soon as possible following the Assessment Committee's decisions.

Lecture

If you are the Prize recipient, you will be invited to present your work at the MSW CA Research Forum the following autumn subsequent to your notification, and may be invited to participate/present at other School functions throughout the year.

The Sidney L. Blum Bursary

Established in 1988 by friends and associates in memory of Sidney L. Blum. To be awarded by the School of Graduate Studies, on the recommendation of the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Office, to any graduate student in good standing in the Master's program of the School of Social Work.

Social Work Alumni 25th Anniversary Award

Purpose

To promote the study of social work in practice and policy areas at the graduate level.

Eligibility

Awarded to any full-time student admitted to the Master of Social Work, Critical Analysis program at McMaster University. The successful recipient will be a graduate of McMaster's BSW program, have received the highest mark in the Personal Statement section of the application process, and been admitted as a full-time student in the MSW Critical Analysis program. In the event of a tie for the highest score on the Personal Statement, then the applicant with the higher of the academic averages will be the successful recipient.

Assessment

The name of the successful recipient meeting the above criteria as determined by the Graduate Studies Committee of the School of Social Work will be recommended by the Director to the School of Graduate Studies who will administer the award.

FUNDING FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES

If you are considering application to a Doctoral Program in 2023-2024.

Information can be found on the School of Social Work's website. You may wish to consult with the Graduate Chair to learn more about the doctoral program.

Currently, each full-time student receives a minimum combined TA/graduate scholarship funding of \$25,000 per year.

Please also consult SGS [Awards & Funding](#) website for a listing of all available awards and external agency links.

** Please note agency guidelines and deadlines are subject to change at any time without prior notice. For complete and accurate information about external scholarship opportunities, please consult the external agency directly.*

The doctoral external scholarship competition has been harmonized across all three agencies (CIHR, SSHRC & NSERC). Please consult [SGS Scholarships](#) (click on “Government” tab) around mid-August 2023) for information on the Fall 2023 Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral (CGS-D) competition (CIHR & SSHRC).
Deadline to apply: October 1st at 11:59pm.

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)

Note: All eligible students will be considered as part of admissions application.

GRADUATE STUDENT PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please read the [Fees & Payment](#) information found on School of Graduate Studies webpage and click on tuition, supplementary fees, and payment methods tile for details.

Student Account

Once you have fully registered (which requires the activation of your MacID), you will be able to log on to Mosaic and view payments due, scholarship support payable to you (excluding research scholarships), and other financial activity on your student account. You may have to enroll in two places for **direct deposit** on Mosaic:

- For those receiving **scholarship support** (excluding research scholarship), McMaster has a **NEW** email refund system. Please read [eTransfer](#) instructions. If you have a credit (negative balance) showing on your account, request your refund by emailing refunds@mcmaster.ca. For more details, please consult [Registrar’s website](#).
- For those receiving **payment for TA or “RA in lieu of TA”**, you must enrol in [HR Direct Deposit](#) and complete, *Contact & Deposit* and tax forms and submit via upload link provided by Faculty of Social Sciences HR coordinator.

If you have issues with your MacID or logging on to Mosaic, you will need to contact [University Technology Services \(UTS\)](#).

You will only be paid in mid-September if you are fully registered* by August 1st.

*Being fully registered means that you are enrolled in a McMaster course in all three terms (Fall, Winter & Spring/Summer). If you are not taking a core course or elective course (must be McMaster course) in any given term, then you need to add SGS-700 as a placeholder course.

Students should direct questions regarding their account and lifting a financial hold to student.billing@mcmaster.ca

Tuition payment: Due by the 25th of the first month of each term (September, January, May). See Registrar's Office for [payment methods](#) and [payment plan](#) enrolment dates (you can now choose to pay your fees in four monthly payments per term).

Scholarship and/or TA Funding Pay Schedule:

TA, RA in lieu of TA, Sessional Faculty Payments, Temp/Casual Payments:

- Paid biweekly starting 2nd week in September.

All Scholarship payments:

Paid in a lump sum per term, 2nd week of Sep/Jan/May.

GSA Health & Dental Plan Coverage

- Students are automatically enrolled in insurances, and have the option of adding their spouse and/or dependent children. Students have the option to “opt-out” at the beginning of the academic year by contacting macgsa@mcmaster.ca and providing proof of similar insurance. See change of coverage period, and “[opt-out](#)” for full details.
- TAs are automatically enrolled in the [CUPE Unit 1 Dental Plan](#). If you have proof of similar coverage, please complete “opt-out” form found on their website at above link.
- University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) is only available to international students.

GRADUATION INFORMATION CENTRE

Please note it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have completed all of their degree requirements by the end of September.

The Graduate Administrator will process a Service Request via Mosaic once the “Final Submission Sheet” has been signed off by the Supervisor that all recommended changes have been made that the oral exam committee identified during the exam. The Service Request will also include the following oral exam forms: “Report of Examining Committee”, “Oral Defense”, “Licence to McMaster University”, and “Completion of Course Requirements.

The Graduate Administrator will then mark the student for “graduation processing” in mosaic. Note: Please do not initiate this process as it will “override” (undo) graduation status.

Potential graduates will find a [Graduation Tile](#) in their Mosaic Home at the beginning of the graduation period with forms to complete.

APPENDIX I: CENTRAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES

- Thesis Completion
 - [Guidelines for Preparation of Masters and Doctoral Theses](#)
 - [School of Social Work Thesis Handbook](#)
- Progressing to Degree Completion
 - [Completing your Degree](#)
 - [Guide to Accessing Academic Advisement reports](#)
- Requesting Enrollment/Financial Letters in Mosaic Student Centre
 - Letters certifying enrollment by term; clear to graduate, and degree completion (after convocation date) may be found in [Mosaic](#) at Student Centre/Academics; then click on drop down menu, “Other Academic” choose “Enrolment/Financial Letters” and input last term that you attended.
- Policies and Regulations
 - [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
 - [Collective Agreement for TA/RA in lieu of TA](#)
 - [Leaves of Absence](#)
 - [Incomplete/Failing Grade](#)
 - [Petition for Special Consideration](#)
 - [Research Integrity Policy](#)
 - [Sexual Violence Policy](#)
 - [Student Appeals Process](#)
 - [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- Information for International Students
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- Where to go for help
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