

24.0 GRADUATE STUDIES

24.0.1 Staff and Faculty

Dr. Bernard Selinger, Vice-President of Academic

Staff:

Jana KakaKaway

24.0.2 Location

Regina Campus, Executive Office
1 First Nations Way
Regina, SK S4S 7K2
Telephone: (306) 790-5950 Ext. 2300
Facsimile: (306) 790-5999
Toll-Free: 1-800-267-6303

24.1 Introduction

Welcome to the First Nations University of Canada graduate program. We are proud of the growing number of innovative programs available for current and prospective First Nations and non-First Nations graduate students.

Thank you for considering graduate studies at the First Nations University of Canada.

24.1.2 Familiarize Yourself with the Graduate Studies Community

This is an exciting time at our university as its members are working to provide students with a comprehensive graduate studies program. As one of our graduate students you are a vital part of an emerging graduate studies community committed to acquiring and expanding knowledge in the best interests of First Nations and all Nations. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with some essential elements of the university's structure, which will help you understand not only the process of your graduate program, but also where to go for information you will require throughout your program.

The First Nations University of Canada is federated with the University of Regina. Federated Colleges promote unique cultural and philosophical heritages by blending their special interests and their student bodies with the programs of the larger university. FNUNIV students are also fully accredited University of Regina students and are encouraged to take advantage of the benefits offered by both institutions. As such, much of the information included in the *Guide* has been taken or adapted from the University of Regina Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Academic Calendar. See www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/calendar/index.shtml

As our university grows and develops, it will undoubtedly change some of the policies and procedures that it now follows in conjunction with the U of R. However, the great majority of universities follow very similar sets of rules, rules that have stood the test of time as being the most expedient way of admitting students and processing their programs.

24.1.2 Graduate Programs: Overview

The FNUniv. is working toward a comprehensive graduate studies program. Currently, three departments offer graduate programs at the Master's level while six departments have faculty members who teach graduate courses and who supervise Master's theses and Doctoral Dissertations for degrees accredited by the University of Regina. The two most recent programs, both of which are currently under development, are an Interdisciplinary MA and a PhD in Indigenous Studies (the latter of which will be offered in partnership with the University of Regina).

Please note the Departments of Indigenous Studies and Linguistics offer Special Case Master's programs, which are discipline specific and require additional documentation. Proposals by individual students for Special Case programs must include proposed title of thesis or dissertation research; a clear, concise statement of the purpose outlining the overall problem being addressed; an abbreviated literature review with supporting documentation for the case that will explain why the research is important and how advanced the field is. It will also state the research approach, tasks and a broad outline of the methodology; a list of supervisor(s) and committee members as well as their departmental affiliation. The academic strengths and expertise that each member will bring to the dissertation research is to be noted; a letter of support from the corresponding faculty/department; though not necessary, it may be useful to include a Table of Contents of the thesis or Dissertation as a brief "first run" of what the chapters will focus on.

Special Case programs and changes thereto require the approval of the MA or PhD. Committee. Hence, applicants need to submit all materials well in advance of the prospective admission date.

24.2 Programs Of Study

24.2.1 Aboriginal Social Work

24.2.1.1 Department Description

Our School of Indian Social Work in partnership with the Faculties of Social Work and Graduate Studies and Research at the U of R offers graduate work leading to a special case cohort Master of Aboriginal Social Work (MASW) degree. The graduate program of studies aims to prepare students as clinical practitioners, especially skilled in Aboriginal approaches to therapy and especially sensitive to issues facing Aboriginal communities. As clinicians, they would be capable of functioning in a broad spectrum of human services activity and in a wide variety of social work and social welfare settings. Fundamental to the program is an understanding of traditional Aboriginal spirituality, culture, and healing, and especially how these traditions can function effectively in contemporary settings. There will be a focus on the abuses of residential schools, including intergenerational effects, as one lens through which generic clinical skills, relevant to serving all populations, are developed. The program encourages the development of critical analytical framework with which to understand the effects of colonization on Aboriginal people. The program has a commitment to respecting the principles and practices of Aboriginal pedagogy, and to building its teaching and learning experiences on a foundation which respects traditional Aboriginal knowledge and the collective wisdom of the Elders.

24.2.1.2 Program Options

There are three program options: an Internship Option, a Project Option, and a Thesis Option. All of the program options will include clinical internships, with the Internship Option having the highest number of Internship hours. Application packages are available from FNUniv. and must be submitted to FGSR prior to February 15 of each year.

MASW Internship Option

Six core classes: ASW 800, ASW 810, ASW 822, ASW 830, ASW 850 and ASW 860 18 credit hours

ASW 904 Internship	15 credit hours
ASW 900 Internship Report	3 credit hours
Total	36 credit hours

MASW Project Option

Six core classes: ASW 800, ASW 810, ASW 822, ASW 830, ASW 850 and ASW 860 18 credit hours

ASW 904 Internship	9 credit hours
ASW 910 Project	9 credit hours
Total	36 credit hours

MASW Thesis Option

Six core classes: ASW 800, ASW 810, ASW 822, ASW 830, ASW 850 and ASW 860 18 credit hours

ASW 904 Internship	6 credit hours
ASW 901 Thesis Research	12 credit hours
Total	36 credit hours

24.2.1.3 Department Staff

Director: Y.Howse, M.S.W.
 S.Acoose, M.S.W.; C. Redman, M.S.W.; J.Sanderson, M.S.W.
 Elders-in-Residence: M.Linklater; W.Linklater; D.Musqua

24.2.2 Department of Indian Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics

24.2.2.1 Department Description

The program in linguistics offers graduate work leading to a special case M.A. degree for students who have completed a B.A. Honours degree in linguistics, or equivalent.

24.2.2.2 Admission Requirements

Applicants should send a transcript showing a linguistics degree or showing the courses in linguistics which they have taken, along with a statement of areas of linguistics in which they would like to do graduate research for their M.A. thesis.

Participating faculty members can then assess whether more linguistics courses are needed in a qualifying year and which ones, or whether the student is eligible for admission as a fully qualified graduate student. The statement of research interests will help us design possible thesis topics and outlines with the applicant, and to see which faculty might serve on the thesis committee and as thesis supervisor. The student who is admitted to the M.A. program will take a minimum of 15 credit hours of graduate level courses, including Linguistics 830 and 880. In addition, a minimum of 15 hours of thesis research is required (Linguistics 901) which can be taken over several semesters.

Participating faculty are housed in various departments of the university and its federated colleges, the only full-time linguistics personnel being in the Department of Indian Languages, Literature and Linguistics in the First Nations University of Canada on the university campus.

24.2.2.3 Department Staff

Graduate Program Co-ordinator:

Arok Wolvengrey, M.A., Department of Indian Languages, First Nations University
 B.D. Galloway, Ph.D.; J.P. van Eijk, Ph.D.; A. Wolvengrey, M.A.

Additional Participating Faculty:

C.W. Louis, Ph.D.; A. Robinson, M.A.
 T. Chase, Ph.D.; P. Douaud, Ph.D.; B. Plouffe, Ph.D.; F. Slaney, Ph.D.; W. Smythe, Ph.D., E. Aito, Ph.D.; S. Ratt, M.A.

24.2.3 First Nations Master of Business Administration

24.2.3.1 Department Description

A unique partnership between the FNUniv. and the University of Saskatchewan, College of Commerce, allows the two colleges to jointly offer a Master of Business Administration with a specialization in Indigenous Management. Students who are interested in an MBA have the opportunity to focus their studies on Aboriginal business issues. The Indigenous Management specialization is the first of its kind in Canada and was developed in response to a growing demand for individuals with higher levels of education and knowledge of Aboriginal business and economic development.

24.2.3.2 Admission Requirements

The College of Commerce has specific requirements regarding graduate student admission:

Prerequisites:

Introductory mathematics (U of S Math 101 or equivalent)
Introductory statistics (U of S Comm 104 or equivalent)
Introductory microeconomics (U of S Econ 111 or equivalent)
Introductory macroeconomics (U of S Econ 114 or equivalent)

Note: These courses must be completed prior to beginning the program.

Minimum 500 Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)
Minimum 600 TOEFL score (written test); 250 (computer-based test)
Four-year honours degree, or equivalent, from a recognized university
A cumulative weighted average of at least 70%** in the last two years of study (i.e. 60 credit units) ** University of Saskatchewan grade system equivalent
Minimum 3 years work experience
Applicants will participate in an interview with members of the MBA Program selection committee

Note: Meeting these minimum criteria does not guarantee admission to the MBA program.

24.2.3.3 Department Staff

Bob Kayseas, MBA, Richard M. Missens, MBA, Jo-Anne Goodpipe, M.HRD, Deborah Campbell, PhD (Philosophy)

24.2.4 Indigenous Studies Special Case M. A.

24.2.4.1 Department Description

The Department of Indigenous Studies offers graduate work leading to a special case M.A. degree for students who have completed the B.A. Honours degree in Indigenous Studies (formerly Indian Studies), or an equivalent degree in Native Studies or First Nations Studies. The student who is admitted to the M.A. program will take a minimum of 18 credit hours of graduate level courses, including Indigenous Studies 800, 801, 805, and 895, and one course taken outside of the department in support of thesis topic research. In addition, a minimum of 12 credit hours of thesis research (Indigenous Studies 901) is required for a total of 30 credit hours.

The Indigenous Studies Research Centre, containing interdisciplinary holdings on research and methodology as well as a computerized database, has been developed to assist graduate students. The First Nations University Library has extensive collections to support advanced and original research.

Teaching assistantships are available for qualified students.

24.2.4.2 Admission Requirements

The Department of Indigenous Studies, First Nations University, collateral to the regular admission procedures required by the University of Regina Faculty of Graduate Studies, expects prospective graduate students who are qualified for admission to the special case M.A. degree program in Indigenous Studies (having completed a B.A. Honours in Indian/Native Studies or First Nations Studies) to submit to the department:

§ a letter of information summarizing academic accomplishments to date including a list of faculty with whom they have taken their Indigenous Studies course work and providing a time line for pursuance and completion of a graduate studies degree;

§ an initial outline of proposed courses to be taken in the individual program of study and prospective faculty that might be asked to teach these;

§ a simple research/thesis proposal that indicates research topic/question including the proposed program of research (methodologies, data sets, theoretical concerns, objectives and anticipated outcomes) and proposed faculty supervisor; and

§ a copy of the honours thesis or in the case that the thesis option was not available, a copy of a major research paper that demonstrates the overall research and writing abilities of the applicant.

This information must be submitted to the department by the same deadline as other admission forms are required by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (March 15).

The department usually only accepts students who can begin their programs in the fall term of the regular academic year. The department seeks this information to enable decisions by the faculty of the department to ensure the most effective utilization of resources dedicated to graduate education. The internal selection process of the department is based on recommendations by those faculty that are members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research who are willing to accept individual students and topics that fall within their range of expertise. Students are encouraged to discuss their plans with the appropriate members of the faculty in advance of preparing their formal submissions.

24.2.4.3 Department Staff

Graduate Studies Advisor/Coordinator: D. Miller, Ph.D., D. Anaquod, M.Ed.; A. Stonechild, Ph.D.; R. Heber, Ph.D.; C. Beal, Ph.D.; D. Miller, Ph.D.; K. Absolon, M.S.W.; W. Asikinack, M.Ed.; L. Fontaine, LL.M.; M. McNab, M.A.; B. Pitawanakwat, M.A.

24.2.5 Interdisciplinary MA in Indigenous Knowledge

24.2.5.1 Program Description

This program is designed for students of all backgrounds who wish to explore a variety of texts that focus on or express the many forms of Indigenous knowledge, the different ways of viewing the natural and human world. "Texts" can include philosophical, political, psychological, and sociological works; scientific treatises, particularly as related to environmental or health studies or to the differences and/or similarities between Western and Indigenous sciences; the visual arts, including film, video, and sculpture; Indigenous languages; literary works; journalistic writing; Aboriginal law; and so on. The philosophy of this program is two-fold: 1) that Indigenous knowledge is not homogenous; there is no single all-encompassing form of Indigenous knowing; and 2) that when one begins to explore Indigenous perspectives on the world, one is inevitably led into a variety of disciplines. Since this program does not privilege a particular area of study, any academic unit at FNUNIV can be the student's home department, provided it contains a faculty member willing and able to supervise the student's work.

The emphasis of the program is on research and scholarship. The MA in Indigenous Knowledge requires 30 credit hours, and the student has two options: 1) take eight three credit courses, no more than five in a home discipline, and three others, approved by the student's advisor, from other disciplines in the program; the final six credits will be given for a project, equivalent to a 30 to 40 page article (this does not have to be a standard academic essay; for example, it could be a piece of creative writing, or it could be a combination essay and art installation, or a study of theories of the environment, including interviews with Elders), that is examined by a committee decided upon by the home department and approved by the FNUNIV Director of Graduate Studies; 2) take five credit courses, no more than three in a home discipline, and two others, approved by the student's advisor, from other disciplines in the program; the final fifteen credits will be given for a thesis, approximately 80 to 100 pages in length, that is examined by a committee decided upon by the home department, and by an external examiner, approved by the FNUNIV Director of Graduate Studies. In both cases, students are required to complete projects that integrate knowledge from two to four disciplines.

24.2.5.2 Admission Requirements

Students seeking admission to the MA in Indigenous Knowledge program must hold a four-year undergraduate degree from an accredited university or a similar recognized qualification from a comparable

institution. Qualified applicants will be considered for admission on the basis of academic standing as well as a brief proposal that indicates the kinds of courses they would like to take and their area of research interest. All applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with the Director of Graduate Studies before making a formal application. For exceptionally able applicants with strong backgrounds, special arrangements can be made, such as assigning a larger number of credit hours towards thesis research.

24.2.5.3 Department Staff

Faculty members from the academic units at First Nations University of Canada, and from the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan as needed or requested.

24.2.6 Indigenous Studies Interdisciplinary Ph.D.

24.2.6.1 Department Description

This interdisciplinary doctoral program in Indigenous Studies, offered jointly by FNUUniv. and the U of R, is deeply rooted in Indigenous cultures, and accommodates and explores both traditional and contemporary Indigenous knowledge systems and their interactions. It values and fosters the development of Indigenous Theory as well as the preservation and dissemination of Indigenous ways of knowing.

The Indigenous Studies doctoral program provides an unparalleled opportunity for innovation. It involves, in a far-reaching, groundbreaking way, the Indigenous communities of Saskatchewan and beyond. It emphasizes research and research protocols relevant to Indigenous communities and grounded in Indigenous worldviews, values, and cultures. As partners in this initiative, the Faculty of Arts of the University of Regina and the First Nations University of Canada are committed to providing the necessary resources for this unique program in terms of teaching, supervision, library resources, and student support. As First Nations University of Canada grows in its capacity in the graduate domain, the locus of control for this doctoral program will gradually shift toward that institution.

As a research degree, the PhD will emphasize original research over formal coursework. Often community-based in nature, this research will be relevant to Indigenous communities. Dissertation committees will have an Elder or other representative from Indigenous communities as an observer and/or committee member.

This PhD program addresses many pressing needs. The population of Saskatchewan is undergoing major demographic changes. As the Indigenous population increases, the need for more well-trained Indigenous workers and the need to address the relevant research needs of Indigenous communities cannot be underestimated. Despite forming about 1.5% of the Canadian population, Status Indian people possess only 170 doctoral degrees out of an earned 128,460 doctoral degrees in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2001). Of the Status Indian population only .13% have earned doctoral degrees, as compared to 4.42 % of the non-Status Indian population. Doctoral-level research that identifies and addresses issues from within Indigenous communities holds far more promise, we believe, than research that identifies and addresses issues primarily from the outside. The calibre of research anticipated at this level, grounded in Indigenous community needs and aspirations, promises to improve the well-being of Indigenous communities and the population as a whole.

24.2.6.2 Program Requirements

The PhD will emphasize community-based research grounded in Indigenous methodologies and worldviews. Candidates for admission will be required to demonstrate the relevance of their proposed research to Indigenous communities, and to demonstrate that such research will promote the development of human resources for Aboriginal self-determination and improvement of living environments.

A minimum one-year residency, such as that in place at the University of Victoria, should be adequate for the type of student we expect the program to attract. Such a residency addresses the real needs of Indig-

enous people, who are often working in their communities. A one-year residency will make the program attractive to many, and will make us competitive with similar programs elsewhere. As well, it appears clear from the experience of other programs that the possession of a master's degree as one of the requirements for admission is the only way to guarantee that a student has reached the level of academic maturity and skills to be able to go succeed in this type of "accelerated" and innovative program.

One of the key motivations of this PhD program is capacity building. The demand for doctoral graduates in this area is clear, both within the academy and outside it. Such demand encompasses fields such as culture, language, Indigenous self-government, and policy analysis. We would add that demand is by no means restricted to Indigenous peoples; rather, it includes a growing population of non-Indigenous people wanting to pursue a career in Aboriginal fields of study.

The provision of higher education opportunities for First Nations scholars is an important one, given the need to develop Aboriginal professionals and in order enable their societies to become self-sufficient:

Post-secondary education is essential to all First Nations activities that share the objective of self-determination... Trained First Nations professionals play a crucial role in the development and implementation of strategies contributing to self-determination. First Nations are requesting direct participation in decisions affecting post-secondary education for First Nations students...The data gathered and analyzed from the First Nations by all three research programs strongly affirmed that post-secondary education is an aboriginal right of First Nations. (Assembly of First Nations, *Tradition and Education: Towards a Vision of Our Future*. Vol. 1. Ottawa: Assembly of First Nations, 1988: 92-93 and 97)

24.2.6.3 Admission Requirements

An Admissions Committee at First Nations University with representatives from the Faculty of Arts advertises for, recruits, and recommends for admission students according to the criteria mentioned above. Candidates are required to submit a preliminary proposal outlining the area in which they intend to conduct research. An interview, in person if possible and at least by telephone, will be conducted.

For some applicants, financial and other forms of aid, such as computers and office space, will be important. For others, the advantages of a well-supported program in an Aboriginal-controlled setting will be sufficient incentive.

24.2.6.4 Department Staff

Graduate Studies Advisor/Coordinator: D. Miller, Ph.D., D. Anaquod, M.Ed.; A. Stonechild, Ph.D.; R. Heber, Ph.D.; C. Beal, Ph.D.; D. Miller, Ph.D.; K. Absolon, M.S.W.; W. Asikinack, M.Ed.; L. Fontaine, LL.M.; M. McNab, M.A.; B. Pitawanakwat, M.A.

Please note that at the First Nations University of Canada faculty members from the departments of English, Indian Education, Indian Fine Arts, and Science teach graduate level courses, and act as committee members and supervisors for Masters' theses and PhD dissertations (on a variety of areas in addition to First Nations related topics) in conjunction with the University of Regina.