

McGill Research in Physical Education Pedagogy Graduate Degree

Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful women/men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. (Coolidge).

Welcome to McGill, the home of the first higher education physical education program in Canada. Your graduate work is an opportunity to open doors that you have not even imagined. My graduate work, and the people I met along the way completely shifted the trajectory of not only my professional life, but also my personal life.

I am a firm believer in the quote above. It's not about talent, or being smart. It's about being persistent, about what you are passionate about and never letting that passion slip away. I had an absolutely amazing graduate student experience, and I see it as part of my job to try to provide you with an experience that was as powerful as mine. That being said, it will be as much about you, as it is about me. The bar is high here at McGill, there is no question. We are a university that is world renowned for the research and knowledge being created here. You will be expected to be a part of this. You will not be expected to do this on your own. The guidelines provided below are starting points for conversations about expectations, requirements, research and teaching.

Supervisor Meetings:

I hope to have at least a 1 hour period each week to touch base to see where you are at. At heavy writing times this may increase, and during slower periods this may decrease. It is expected that you show up with writing to read, discuss and garner feedback. I also have an open door policy, so when I am in my office I have no issues with you popping in if you have a question. Please just be mindful of time and if it is a substantial question please schedule a meeting.

Communication between meetings:

Email or text is fine. I probably won't respond on the weekend unless we have a deadline that needs to be met. If you are a teacher assistant for one of my courses, we will probably touch base more frequently in between meetings based on your assigned role. Again please just be mindful of time.

Feedback on Writing:

Feedback on an ongoing basis is much more fruitful than periodic feedback. Best case scenario is giving ongoing feedback during our supervisor meetings. This way writing can take place each week, and we have a timely opportunity to intervene if things are not going well, or you hit a writing block. When there are times of handing in full documents (papers, proposals, etc) please make sure the document is written to the best of your ability. My role is to help the process not write the paper. Also, electronic copy is fine as I will provide track changes.

Student Funding:

Funding is determined between each student and myself. This will have been discussed prior to you accepting your offer. While the amount of funding promised will not go down, it may go up if grants are secured, or you take on TA or RAships. There may also be extra research assistant work available with myself or other professors if your time permits.

Other work commitments:

While I understand that we all need to make ends meet, it is expected that your full time job is completing your Masters or PhD. This means that your presence is needed at the university in the pedagogy lab space on a regular basis. You will more than likely be working as a teacher assistant, research assistant and completing your own graduate student courses and research. Working on the weekends or evenings is up to you as long as it does not interfere with your commitments as a masters or PhD student.

Teaching assistant responsibilities:

You will probably have an opportunity to TA at least one class during your graduate work. While a TA agreement will be negotiated for each class, in general I hope that my TA's are less assistants and more co-teachers. This is not to save me work. It is simply more enjoyable, and enriching to teach alongside someone. You may teach classes by your self, create power points, mark lab experiences, grade papers, etc. The more involved you are the better sense you will get of what it is like to teach at the university level.

Research Responsibilities:

As mentioned, McGill is research intensive, therefore, research will be an imperative part of your graduate work. While the end goal is to help graduates continue learning, I also see my role as preparing in the best way to become an academic. This includes writing and co-authoring papers, literature reviews, collection of data, attending conferences etc. A specific timeline for your research will be created between us when you begin your program.

Program timelines:

Masters program: A masters program has a fairly structured timeline of 2 years. Of course things happen and this can be extended if it makes sense.

PhD: PhD program is generally 4 years, however you have a maximum of 6 years to complete from your start date. My hope is that 4 years would be your goal.

Grant Applications:

The expectation is that you attempt to be as self-funded as possible. This is great for our entire program and is beneficial to you in your career as you move forward. This may mean applying for internal grants as well as external grants. For larger Tri-Council grants (SSHRC and CIHR) I see it as my responsibility to help with the writing of the proposal. However, finding grants, grant deadlines, scholarships is 100% your responsibility in terms of knowing what is expected and when the grants are due. Be aware that many grants have both internal and external dates, so it can be confusing.

Working in the lab space:

We have a pedagogy lab space in room 233 of the currie bulding. This space was garnered by Dr. Havey and myself with the premise that it would be used to create a more cohesive physical health education pedagogy graduate program. We will hold bi-weekly lab meetings in this space, and it is expected that you use this space to work in on a regular basis. It is important from a political standpoint that we show this space is both social and productive. There is an amazing social atmosphere among the McGill graduate students, and this space will help to add to this atmosphere.

Holiday/Time away from the university

All university holidays are holidays in which you should take the time to get away from the lab and university. In general it is expected that students be at the university between the months of September to July 1. May and June, while there are no courses, will be your heaviest months of work in regards to conferences, papers, colloquium etc. Therefore it is suggested that students plan to be around the university during these times. If things arise a constant stream of communication will ensure that we are all on the same page.

Authorship

Any paper that is based on your own data that you have taken the time to analyze, frame, write etc. will include you as the first author. Any papers that you are involved in writing will include you as an author. Author order will depend on the amount put in to the paper and will be negotiated at the beginning of each paper for transparency sake. Your masters or PhD work will include you as first author. In the case that you complete your masters and do not begin the publishing of a manuscript in the first six montsh after your masters is complete, the work will be published by the lab. You will no longer be first author, but your name will still appear in the author order.