

**GRADUATE DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, FACULTY OF DENTISTRY
GUIDELINES FOR M.Sc. SPECIALTY – COURSEWORK ONLY OPTION**

The coursework only option requires completion of all coursework and clinical training as per the requirements of the specialty training with thesis option. However, the thesis is replaced by additional courses designed to provide the student with broad training in clinical, epidemiological or basic science research methodology appropriate for clinical or public health practice. The M.Sc. thesis is replaced with the addition of three one-half courses, plus completion of a research practicum.

Approval Required

Prior to March of your first year of study, you must meet with your Program Director to determine whether the coursework only is available to you as a student in your particular dental specialty. Once you have been granted permission to pursue this option, your Program Director will notify the Associate Dean of Graduate and Postgraduate Studies in writing. Any students who elect this option should note that you will not be permitted to apply for transfer from the M.Sc. to the Ph.D. degree.

Coursework Requirements

Completion of all courses as per the curriculum for your chosen specialty, together with **Additional Courses Being Required to Fulfill the Requirements of the Coursework only option**

In addition to the courses as required for the specialty you are undertaking, the additional courses that are required are four one-half courses. This includes three one-half research methods courses designed to promote the student's understanding of and ability to practice and teach evidence-based health care and to collaborate in clinical and/or population-based research and completion of the research practicum which will count as the 4th half course required.

The courses may be selected from among the research methods courses currently taught in the Faculty of Dentistry or courses offered by other graduate departments, that address issues integral to contemporary approaches to clinical and population-based research and evidence-based clinical and public health practice. Students will select these courses in year one of their program in consultation with the Director of their program of study and/or the supervisor of their research practicum. Selected courses are submitted in writing for approval by the Associate Dean of Graduate/Postgraduate Studies.

Research Practicum

The research practicum, which will count as a half course, will endeavour to provide students with hands-on experience of one or more components of the research process. This can include experience in analyzing an existing data set, undertaking a systematic review, and/or meta-analysis or a review article. This type of experience will give students the opportunity to use skills, which will benefit them in future, evaluation of the scientific literature. Further, the development of research interests and clinical decision-making is gained by experience in, and an appreciation of, literature searching, hypothesis setting, experimental design, methodological limitations, laboratory practice, and the writing of a paper for publication. The requirements for this course can be met by undertaking a research project or an essay in the form of a review article. In either case, the student must submit a paper in a format suitable for publication.

Timing and Advisory Committee Reporting

The research practicum will be undertaken early in the program, so as to allow adequate time for review of literature, and completion of the research practicum, with the assistance of the Program Director, and/or other supervisors who have active research endeavours. You should arrange to meet with your

practicum supervisor on a regular basis. You will be required to undergo annual formal meetings, which will entail completion and submission of the advisory committee report form to the Associate Dean of Graduate/Postgraduate Studies. Additional meetings may be required at the discretion of the practicum supervisor, the student, or the Associate Dean of Graduate/Postgraduate Studies.

Examination of the Research Practicum

Upon completion of the practicum, you will be required to undergo an oral examination. The examination committee will comprise three faculty members, at least one of whom is from the student's specialty discipline. The oral examination may take place as soon as the student has completed the research practicum to the satisfaction of the Discipline Head/Practicum supervisor. Upon receipt of notice from your Program Director/Practicum supervisor that you are ready to undergo the oral examination of your research practicum, you must ensure delivery of a hard copy of your written submission/publication to all examiners not less than two weeks in advance of the date of your oral examination.

Students Must Complete the Course, Master's Seminars in Oral Health Sciences

Students undertaking this option are also required, as a component of their research training to take and fulfill all requirements for the obligatory Seminars in Oral Health Sciences course which is a required course for all graduate students in the Faculty of Dentistry. Graduate Specialty students are required to attend one year and complete any assignment as set by the director. Your Program Director will provide you with a timetable for your mandatory attendance.

The program includes an annual series of research ethics seminars. As per requirements for the course, M.Sc. specialty students are required to attend all seminars one year; present one 25 minutes seminar which is evaluated by the core faculty group present at the seminar; chair one seminar; present a poster at the Faculty of Dentistry Research Day. Research Day posters are evaluated by all Faculty members in attendance.

Program completion

Keep in focus that all requirements for the clinical specialty discipline, graduate courses and the completion of defence of the research practicum must be achieved and approved by the Associate Dean prior to program completion.

Timely completion depends on an early start, detailed advance planning, and efficient conduct of the research practicum project.

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