

Appendix A

Minor Modification Proposal

Faculty: Health

Department: School of Health Policy and Management

Program: Critical Disability Studies

Degree Designation: PhD

Type of Modification: Minor modification to dissertation requirements

Location Strong College

Effective Date: Fall 2026

Approval Date at Faculty Council:

1. Describe the proposed modifications to the program.

The modification to the program is related to the form that the dissertation can take which now includes: manuscript based dissertations and complex electronic and multimodal dissertations. Manuscript based dissertations include 3-4 publishable manuscripts with an introduction and conclusion chapter.

A complex electronic dissertation is a work with a high reliance on slides, film or videos, electronically interactive word/image-based text on CD-ROM or the internet. For complex electronic theses/dissertations, part of the work can be produced in traditional written form, but key elements of the work depend on direct experience with or interaction with a text whose physical form may be changed as a consequence of the interaction.

A multimodal dissertation is a work in which the key component is a performance or piece of art. For multimodal theses/dissertations, part of the work can be produced in traditional written form, but key elements of the work depend on direct experience by the exam committee with, for example, displayed artworks or theatrical productions.

2. Provide a rationale for the proposed modifications.

These modifications were made on the advice of FGS.

3. How will the proposed modification support the achievement of Program Learning Outcomes?

The modifications align closely with the interdisciplinary nature of the CDS program which welcomes scholars from across the social sciences, humanities and arts. Giving students more flexibility in being able to chose different dissertation formats will aid them in their program learning outcomes.

4. Describe how students currently enrolled in the program will be accommodated.

Students currently enrolled in the program are already aware that they have these options. These options have been built into the most recent CDS Graduate Handbook

5. Describe any resource implications and how they are being addressed (e.g., through a reallocation of existing resources). If new/additional resources are required, provide a statement from the relevant Dean(s)/Principal confirming resources will be in place to implement the changes.

N/A

6. If relevant, summarize the consultation undertaken with relevant academic units, including commentary on the impact of the proposed changes on other programs. Provide individual statements from the relevant program(s) confirming consultation and their support.

N/A

APPENDIX

Attach a Side-by-Side Academic Calendar Copy Comparison

Ensure that deletions are indicated with strikethrough (e.g., ~~strikethrough~~) text and additions are made in a contrasting colour (e.g., **KINE 1000**)

Existing Graduate Program/Graduate Diploma Information (Change From):	Proposed Graduate Program/Graduate Diploma Information (Change To):
<p>Degree Requirements MA Overview Candidates for the Master of Arts (Critical Disability Studies) degree must fulfill the following requirements.</p> <p>Three course equivalents at the graduate level, including a major research paper as follows:</p> <p>Courses Core courses 1. a) Critical Disability Studies 5100 6.0: Disability Studies: An Overview; b) Critical Disability Studies 5110 3.0: Methodology; and,</p> <p>2. Three Elective courses</p> <p>Major Research Paper Students in the MA must complete a major research paper that tests students against the educational objectives of being able to form a researchable question. The research paper address the question through an appropriate theoretical framework, review and synthesis of the literature, analysis of primary and secondary data sources and formation of a set of conclusions. It trains students in the formulation and writing of a specific research project, and gives them the experience of working independently under faculty supervision. Students develop a research topic given their interests in specific areas and are supervised by faculty members with related experience.</p> <p>The major research paper is evaluated by the student’s major research paper supervisor and advisor through written and oral presentations at which the student’s ability to answer questions related to the major research paper is assessed. The major research paper is evaluated on the extent to which the student</p>	<p>Degree Requirements MA Overview Candidates for the Master of Arts (Critical Disability Studies) degree must fulfill the following requirements.</p> <p>Three course equivalents at the graduate level, including a major research paper as follows:</p> <p>Courses Core courses 1. a) Critical Disability Studies 5100 6.0: Disability Studies: An Overview; b) Critical Disability Studies 5110 3.0: Methodology; and,</p> <p>2. Three Elective courses</p> <p>Major Research Paper Students in the MA must complete a major research paper that tests students against the educational objectives of being able to form a researchable question. The research paper address the question through an appropriate theoretical framework, review and synthesis of the literature, analysis of primary and secondary data sources and formation of a set of conclusions. It trains students in the formulation and writing of a specific research project, and gives them the experience of working independently under faculty supervision. Students develop a research topic given their interests in specific areas and are supervised by faculty members with related experience.</p> <p>The major research paper is evaluated by the student’s major research paper supervisor and advisor through written and oral presentations at which the student’s ability to answer questions related to the major research paper is assessed. The major research paper is evaluated on the extent to which the student</p>

proposes researchable question, and their ability to address it through an appropriate theoretical framework, review and synthesis of the literature, analysis of primary or secondary data sources and formation of a set of conclusions. The length of the paper is 50 pages with an upper limit of no more than 65 pages, excluding references.

Program Entry

The MA program can be completed on a full- or part-time basis. Entry is fall term.

Program Length

The expected degree completion time for full-time master’s students is 3 terms. For those students who complete degree requirements earlier than 3 terms, they must register and pay fees for a minimum of the equivalent of 3 terms of full-time study. All requirements for a master’s degree must be fulfilled within 12 terms (4 years) of registration as a full-time or part-time master’s student in accordance with Faculty of Graduate Studies’ registration policies.

PhD

Overview

The PhD program is a full-time program of advanced graduate study. It is expected that most students will complete the program in four years. However, students can change their status to be registered on a part-time basis unless otherwise approved for accommodation purposes.

All PhD candidates are required to develop a plan of study providing an integrated, coherent rationale for their studies as they relate to coursework, the comprehensive examination and the dissertation. The plan of study must demonstrate the use of critical theory in disability studies as well as an interdisciplinary approach that charts new areas in scholarship in this field. Upon admission, each student is assigned an advisor, based on student’s field of interest as indicated in statement of interest and advisor’s area of expertise, with whom the student meets to decide on the plan of study. The plan must be approved by both the student’s advisor and the Graduate Program

proposes researchable question, and their ability to address it through an appropriate theoretical framework, review and synthesis of the literature, analysis of primary or secondary data sources and formation of a set of conclusions. The length of the paper is 50 pages with an upper limit of no more than 65 pages, excluding references.

Program Entry

The MA program can be completed on a full- or part-time basis. Entry is fall term.

Program Length

The expected degree completion time for full-time master’s students is 3 terms. For those students who complete degree requirements earlier than 3 terms, they must register and pay fees for a minimum of the equivalent of 3 terms of full-time study. All requirements for a master’s degree must be fulfilled within 12 terms (4 years) of registration as a full-time or part-time master’s student in accordance with Faculty of Graduate Studies’ registration policies.

PhD

Overview

The PhD program is a full-time program of advanced graduate study. It is expected that most students will complete the program in four years. However, students can change their status to be registered on a part-time basis unless otherwise approved for accommodation purposes.

All PhD candidates are required to develop a plan of study providing an integrated, coherent rationale for their studies as they relate to coursework, the comprehensive examination and the dissertation. The plan of study must demonstrate the use of critical theory in disability studies as well as an interdisciplinary approach that charts new areas in scholarship in this field. Upon admission, each student is assigned an advisor, based on student’s field of interest as indicated in statement of interest and advisor’s area of expertise, with whom the student meets to decide on the plan of study. The plan must be approved by both the student’s advisor and the Graduate Program

<p>Director during the first term of study. By the end of the second term, the student must submit a finalized plan of study, which is a refinement of the first. Upon completion of their first year of study, students are required to choose a supervisor.</p> <p>The PhD program has three major components: coursework, a comprehensive examination, and the dissertation.</p> <p>Courses Core Courses Students are required to take one full core course, over two terms in the first year of study: Critical Disability Studies 6100 6.0: Doctoral Seminar in Critical Disability Theory and Research.</p> <p>Electives In addition, students are required to complete any three half-courses from among the program's electives. Although approval from the Program Director is required, students are encouraged to take courses from other graduate programs to fulfill their elective requirements. No specialization is required, as students obtain general competencies from engagement in all three fields. It is expected that students complete their elective requirements over the first three terms of study.</p> <p><i>Note: If, prior to admission, students have not taken a graduate level methodology course, Critical Disability Studies 5110 3.0: Methodology is required in addition to the three electives for a total of four electives.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Critical Disability Studies 5120 3.0: Law is primarily offered to master's students; however it is accessible to PhD students who have not previously taken a law course. If prior to admission, students have not taken a Law course relating to issues of disability, Critical Disability Studies 5120 3.0: Law is required in addition to two electives for a total of three electives.</i></p> <p>Comprehensive Examination</p>	<p>Director during the first term of study. By the end of the second term, the student must submit a finalized plan of study, which is a refinement of the first. Upon completion of their first year of study, students are required to choose a supervisor.</p> <p>The PhD program has three major components: coursework, a comprehensive examination, and the dissertation.</p> <p>Courses Core Courses Students are required to take one full core course, over two terms in the first year of study: Critical Disability Studies 6100 6.0: Doctoral Seminar in Critical Disability Theory and Research.</p> <p>Electives In addition, students are required to complete any three half-courses from among the program's electives. Although approval from the Program Director is required, students are encouraged to take courses from other graduate programs to fulfill their elective requirements. No specialization is required, as students obtain general competencies from engagement in all three fields. It is expected that students complete their elective requirements over the first three terms of study.</p> <p><i>Note: If, prior to admission, students have not taken a graduate level methodology course, Critical Disability Studies 5110 3.0: Methodology is required in addition to the three electives for a total of four electives.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Critical Disability Studies 5120 3.0: Law is primarily offered to master's students; however it is accessible to PhD students who have not previously taken a law course. If prior to admission, students have not taken a Law course relating to issues of disability, Critical Disability Studies 5120 3.0: Law is required in addition to two electives for a total of three electives.</i></p> <p>Comprehensive Examination</p>
--	--

<p>The comprehensive examination is a pedagogical exercise that requires candidates to engage in written and oral focused academic inquiry on a topic or problem of interest that extends the bounds of coursework and moves toward the conceptual work of the dissertation.</p> <p>The comprehensive requirement is composed of two parts: written and oral. The written comprehensive requirement takes the form or its equivalent of two 25 page essays unless otherwise negotiated between the student and their supervisor. Each of the comprehensives is supervised by a faculty member appointed to the Critical Disability Studies Graduate Program. Each component - written and oral - will have an equal weighting, and a single integrated outcome will be provided (i.e., pass or fail). All comprehensive requirements will ordinarily be completed by the end of term seven. Students are encouraged to begin planning and preparing for their first comprehensive well before CDS program deadlines. Excluding exceptional circumstances, scheduling information will usually be provided to students and participating faculty at least 20 business days in advance of the written and oral exam.</p> <p>Upon successful completion of the written portion there is an oral exam; its purpose is to demonstrate competence and to allow for questions, reflections & clarifications as needed. The oral comprehensive examination committee includes two supervisors who are responsible for evaluating the student. The oral comprehensive will be scheduled when the supervisors consider the written components to have passed and the student has exhibited competence in the minor and major fields.</p> <p>The oral exam is a 90 minutes closed exam scheduled when the faculty supervisors have approved the written component. Prior to scheduling the oral exam the student will send copies of their approved papers to the Graduate Program Director, and both field supervisors.</p>	<p>The comprehensive examination is a pedagogical exercise that requires candidates to engage in written and oral focused academic inquiry on a topic or problem of interest that extends the bounds of</p> <p>The comprehensive requirement is composed of two parts: written and oral. The written comprehensive requirement takes the form or its equivalent of two 25 page essays unless otherwise negotiated between the student and their supervisor. Each of the comprehensives is supervised by a faculty member appointed to the Critical Disability Studies Graduate Program. Each component - written and oral - will have an equal weighting, and a single integrated outcome will be provided (i.e., pass or fail). All comprehensive requirements will ordinarily be completed by the end of term seven. Students are encouraged to begin planning and preparing for their first comprehensive well before CDS program deadlines. Excluding exceptional circumstances, scheduling information will usually be provided to students and participating faculty at least 20 business days in advance of the written and oral exam.</p> <p>Upon successful completion of the written portion there is an oral exam; its purpose is to demonstrate competence and to allow for questions, reflections & clarifications as needed. The oral comprehensive examination committee includes two supervisors who are responsible for evaluating the student. The oral comprehensive will be scheduled when the supervisors consider the written components to have passed and the student has exhibited competence in the minor and major fields.</p> <p>The oral exam is a 90 minutes closed exam scheduled when the faculty supervisors have approved the written component. Prior to scheduling the oral exam the student will send copies of their approved papers to the Graduate Program Director, and both field supervisors.</p>
---	--

<p>The oral exam has as its focus the written components. In the exam the student presents a 10-15 minute overview of their comprehensive papers after which there are two rounds of questions. The oral examination evaluation is based upon the students demonstration of competence, awareness of current debates, gaps, and research in their major and minor fields.</p> <p>The oral exam will be chaired by the Graduate Program Director or representative (non-voting)</p> <p>The comprehensive requirement is assessed by the supervisors using one of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pass • fail <p>If there is a split vote the Graduate Program Director or designate will confer with faculty supervisors and cast the deciding vote. Should the student fail they will be given one opportunity to retake the oral exam within three months; areas for improvement will be clearly laid out by the committee. A second failure will result in removal from the program.</p> <p>Dissertation and Oral Examination After successful completion of the comprehensive examination, students begin preparation of the dissertation. The dissertation, with a concentration in one of the fields, but with broad application of all three, makes an original contribution to scholarship in the field of Critical Disability Studies. The dissertation process has four stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the establishment of a supervisory committee, comprised of three faculty members, at least two of whom must be members of the Critical Disability Studies graduate program. A third member may be appointed to the graduate program; • the preparation of a dissertation proposal, which must be approved by the Graduate Program Director, the 	<p>The oral exam has as its focus the written components. In the exam the student presents a 10-15 minute overview of their comprehensive papers after which there are two rounds of questions. The oral examination evaluation is based upon the students demonstration of competence, awareness of current debates, gaps, and research in their major and minor fields.</p> <p>The oral exam will be chaired by the Graduate Program Director or representative (non-voting)</p> <p>The comprehensive requirement is assessed by the supervisors using one of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pass • fail <p>If there is a split vote the Graduate Program Director or designate will confer with faculty supervisors and cast the deciding vote. Should the student fail they will be given one opportunity to retake the oral exam within three months; areas for improvement will be clearly laid out by the committee. A second failure will result in removal from the program.</p> <p>Dissertation and Oral Examination After successful completion of the comprehensive examination, students begin preparation of the dissertation. The dissertation, with a concentration in one of the fields, but with broad application of all three, makes an original contribution to scholarship in the field of Critical Disability Studies. The dissertation process has four stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the establishment of a supervisory committee, comprised of three faculty members, at least two of whom must be members of the Critical Disability Studies graduate program. A third member may be appointed to the graduate program; • the preparation of a dissertation
---	--

<p>supervisory committee and the Faculty of Graduate Studies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the writing of a dissertation acceptable to the supervisory committee and formally approved as examinable by the members of that committee; and, • the successful completion of an oral examination, centred on the dissertation and matters related to it, and presided over by an examining committee recommended by the Graduate Program Director for approval and appointment by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. <p>Program Entry The PhD program can be completed on a full-time basis. Entry is fall term.</p> <p>Program Length This is a 12 term (4 year) program. Faculty of Graduate Studies' regulations require all students to register for a minimum of 6 terms (2 years), and to complete all requirements within 18 terms (6 years). Terms in which a student registers for Elective Leave, Exceptional Circumstances Leave, Family Care Leave, or No Course Available are not included in these time limits. Continuous registration at York University must be maintained.</p>	<p>proposal, which must be approved by the Graduate Program Director, the supervisory committee and the Faculty of Graduate Studies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the writing of a dissertation acceptable to the supervisory committee and formally approved as examinable by the members of that committee; and, • the successful completion of an oral examination, centred on the dissertation and matters related to it, and presided over by an examining committee recommended by the Graduate Program Director for approval and appointment by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertations can take the form of manuscript-based dissertations and complex electronic and multimodal dissertations. • Manuscript based dissertations include 3-4 publishable manuscripts with an introduction and conclusion chapter. • A complex electronic dissertation is a work with a high reliance on slides, film or videos, electronically interactive word/image-based text on CD-ROM or the internet. For complex electronic theses/dissertations, part of the work can be produced in traditional written form, but key elements of the work depend on direct experience with or interaction with a text whose physical form may be changed as a consequence of the interaction. • A multimodal dissertation is a work in which the key component is a performance or piece of art. For multimodal theses/dissertations, part of the work can be produced in traditional written form, but key elements of the work depend on direct experience by the exam committee with, for example, displayed artworks or theatrical productions.
--	---

	<p>Program Entry The PhD program can be completed on a full-time basis. Entry is fall term.</p> <p>Program Length This is a 12 term (4 year) program. Faculty of Graduate Studies' regulations require all students to register for a minimum of 6 terms (2 years), and to complete all requirements within 18 terms (6 years). Terms in which a student registers for Elective Leave, Exceptional Circumstances Leave, Family Care Leave, or No Course Available are not included in these time limits. Continuous registration at York University must be maintained.</p>
--	---