

Remediation Options for Graduate Students:

Faculty of Graduate Studies Remediation Options for Graduate Students

These options are based on the distinctive nature of graduate study (both within and beyond coursework), and the unique role played by many graduate students who are teaching assistants, during the remediation period. TAs will assist in the remediation of undergraduate courses on a condensed timeline, while working toward their own degree requirements, also on a condensed timeline.

1. The undergraduate remediation policies and course completion options authorized by Senate Executive apply equally to graduate courses, with the following two exceptions:
 - The assessed grade option is not available to students in graduate courses
 - Graduate courses cannot be converted to the pass/fail grading scheme
2. Given the dual role that many graduate students will play during the remediation period and the distinctive nature of graduate coursework – both in itself and in relation to other graduate program milestones – graduate courses, individual instructors will have up to a 4 week remediation period to complete their courses as they determine appropriate. The exact dates will be determined at the end of the labour disruption.
3. The “cushion period” applied to undergraduate courses that have been suspended, or where students have not participated, also applies to graduate courses. Graded course requirements should not be due until at least one class “meet” has occurred (in whichever format) or one week has passed, whichever is longer. This does not apply to regular assignments or laboratory work typically assigned and submitted as a regular part of class meets.
4. Instructors can shift the resumed parts of a course to online delivery where feasible and appropriate during the remediation period as a form of accommodation to students who cannot attend course activities in-person; given the importance of class attendance and participation in graduate courses, especially seminars, instructors will determine the appropriate technology option available for class meetings, to accommodate students who cannot be physically present.
5. Instructors in graduate courses are permitted to make changes to the number, kind, and weight of assignments, tests, and examinations of a course, provided this does not disadvantage students and that it preserves the academic integrity of graduate education. While instructors may make these types of changes to assignments, tests and examinations, where possible, students should have the choice to complete the assignments following the originally published grading scheme for the course.

In addition, should the above remediation efforts not adequately enable individual students to complete their course work or progress in their degree milestones, FGS will provide the following measures to assist in the remediation of graduate study:

1. As a one-time-only option, all petitions to drop a W term course or a Y term without a W grade on the transcript will be administratively approved and will not require supporting documentation, provided they are submitted by December 31, 2024. This only applies to Winter 2024 courses and Fall/Winter 2023-24 Y term courses, and there will be no exceptions to this deadline.

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2. As a one-time-only option, petitions for a General Leave of Absence (LOA) for Summer 2024 submitted *during the Senate-established remediation period* will be administratively approved and will not require the typical supporting documentation. This will not affect a student's eligibility for other LOAs in the future. Please note that the leave cannot be granted retroactively.
3. Timelines for non-coursework milestones will be adjusted reflective of the length of the labour disruption, within the constraints of staff processing and convocation. Exact deadlines TBD.

Other Recommendations to Support Accommodation of Students' Completion of Courses/Programs:

1. Students who are unable to meet established graduate course-related deadlines are encouraged to work collaboratively with individual course directors about appropriate deadlines for submitting coursework, using the FGS [course transaction form](#). If the course director is unavailable or suitable arrangements are not agreed upon, the student may bring the matter to the Graduate Program Director. In exceptional circumstances, where remediation cannot be achieved at the program level, a graduate student can bring their request to the Associate Dean, Student Affairs in FGS.
2. Graduate Course Directors are encouraged to develop alternative ways (including a remediated meeting schedule) for students to complete their coursework without compromising academic quality, given the crucial role of the seminar and/or lab in many graduate courses.
3. Programs and faculty members are encouraged to continue to be accommodating and adopt a student-centered approach, whether this entails postponing, maintaining, or expediting certain components relevant to a student's degree requirements (e.g. allowing for a wider range of electives).
4. While timeline decisions for comprehensive/qualifying exams and other program-specific requirements are made at the program level FGS recommends appropriate remediation and flexibility for these as well. Graduate supervisors are asked to schedule a meeting with their principal supervisees to ascertain what supports and plans would be helpful to enable graduate students to meet program milestones. The Annual Progress Report is critical in this regard.