HANDBOOK OF SUPERVISION AND EXAMINATION

Preamble

This handbook contains the rules, guidelines and procedures of the Faculty of Graduate Studies that pertain to the administration of graduate programs and to the appointment of graduate supervisors. While the rules are stated in fixed or absolute terms, it is intended that they be administered with some degree of flexibility and, to that end, the Dean of Graduate Studies and his/her designates are empowered to grant exceptions, extensions and variances, upon written request and explanation. Requests, whether from students or faculty members, should be made over the signature of the Graduate Coordinator of the program concerned.

The Head of a Department, Director of an interdisciplinary program or, in the case of non-departmentalized faculties, the Dean of the Faculty, is responsible for graduate programs. However, this responsibility is normally delegated to a Graduate Coordinator. In this document, for the sake of clarity in describing common practice, the Graduate Coordinator is referred to as the person responsible for the graduate program.

Please note that in this document “the Dean” refers to the Dean of Graduate Studies unless otherwise noted.

The Handbook of Supervision and Examination is published as part of the Graduate Calendar. Changes made to the regulations during the year are indicated in the official online Calendar.

Part I: Course-based Master’s Degree

1. Supervision

Although the Faculty of Graduate Studies does not require the formal appointment of a Supervisor, programs may appoint a Faculty Advisor or a Supervisor. The latter must meet Faculty of Graduate Studies requirements for graduate supervision. Those requirements are outlined in Supervisory Policy http://grad.ucalgary.ca/policies/supervision.

2. Judgement of Student Performance

If a student’s grades do not meet the Calendar requirements (see Calendar, Student Standing), the Faculty of Graduate Studies will notify the program of this. In addition, the program may independently judge that a student’s performance is not satisfactory. In either case, it is the responsibility of the Graduate Coordinator to promptly notify the student in writing that performance is below an acceptable level. A student will be required to withdraw from the Faculty of Graduate Studies for reasons of unsatisfactory performance unless the program recommends otherwise.

3. Research Component and Exit Requirements

The Campus Alberta Quality Council requires a research component for all Course-based Master’s
programs, and states that this requirement can be satisfied in a variety of ways, for example, by “one or more research courses in the program,” or a capstone course that focuses “on the integration and application of the knowledge acquired.” The programs may also “culminate in a comprehensive examination involving an examination committee.”\textsuperscript{1} The Faculty of Graduate Studies operates in accordance with CAQC guidelines, and requires that the nature of the research component and the form of any comprehensive examination must be identified in program regulations that are approved by the Faculty of Graduate Studies Academic Program Committee.

4. Transfers

4.1 Transfers at the Master’s Level

Application for Change of Area of Specialization

A student requires approval of both the Graduate Coordinator and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies to transfer from one area of specialization to another, while remaining within the degree program.

4.2 Transfers from Course-based Master’s Degree to Thesis-based Master’s Degree

A student requires approval of both the Graduate Coordinator and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies to transfer from a Course-based Master’s Degree to a Thesis-based Master’s Degree.

4.3 Transfers to Doctoral Programs

4.3.1 Transfer from Master’s to Doctoral Programs

Program Heads may recommend outstanding Master’s students for transfer to the doctoral program. Such recommendations must be endorsed by the proposed doctoral Supervisor and accompanied by the names of members of the proposed doctoral supervisory committee. The transfer must be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

4.3.2 Course and Examination Requirements

Courses credited in the prior Master’s program will be taken as fulfilling doctoral requirements where applicable, in accordance with program requirements for required doctoral course work. All students transferring from Master’s to doctoral programs will be required to sit the doctoral candidacy examination.

4.3.3 Time Limits on Transfers

Transfers from Master’s to doctoral programs must be completed within twenty-four months of the student’s initial registration in the Faculty of Graduate Studies. All transfer students must attempt the candidacy examination within thirty-six months of first registration in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

\textsuperscript{1} All quotations are from 
\url{http://www.caqc.gov.ab.ca/pdfs/Graduate_Program_Assessment_Standards_REVISED_8_July_2008_3_pdf} as at 2008 October 10

Faculty of Graduate Studies
Handbook of Supervision and Examination: Course-based Master's Program
Revised 19 November 2008