



***The Senate of Acadia University acknowledges that we are located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.***

Dear Member of Senate:

I advise you that a special meeting of the Senate of Acadia University will occur from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This will be a virtual meeting that will take place using Microsoft Teams.

The agenda follows:

**1) Approval of Agenda**

**2) Announcements**

**3) New Business (continued from June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting)**

- a) Academic Integrity Incidents Report (*M. Bishop*) ([attached, page 3](#))
- b) Senate Graduate Studies Committee Motion: Motion to approve the amended Graduate Program Entrance Requirements (*S. Currie*) ([attached, page 4](#))
- c) Senate Graduate Studies Committee Motion: Motion to approve the amended Offer of Admission (*S. Currie*) ([attached, page 5](#))
- d) Senate Graduate Studies Committee Motion: Motion to approve the Graduate Application Retention Policies (*S. Currie*) ([attached, page 6](#))
- e) Senate ad hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee Motions: (1) Motion that the Senate ad hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee continue as an ad hoc committee until Acadia has a stand-alone Nursing program. (2) Motion that once the Director of the School of Nursing is on site, they be added to the Senate ad hoc Nursing Program Steering Committee as a voting member. (*C. Haigh*)
- f) Motion: That the Registrar's Office shall report to Senate on the matter of student academic integrity. In particular, the Registrar shall report on the number of reported violations of Acadia's student academic integrity policy during the 2023-2024 academic year, the nature of the violations, the percentage of violations that were committed by individuals found to have violated the policy in the past, and any disciplinary action taken against them (*J. Sachs and K. Pinder*)
- g) Motion: That the Academic Integrity Committee shall implement an anonymous survey of faculty on matters of academic integrity. In particular, the survey shall ask whether faculty have ever suspected a student of violating Acadia's academic integrity policy, and if so: (a) on how many occasions; (b) did the faculty member follow the policy and why/why not; and (c) where the faculty member concluded that the violation occurred, how the matter was resolved (*J. Sachs and K. Pinder*)

**4) Other Business**

**5) Adjournment**

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

J. Peckham, Recording Secretary of Senate and University Secretary

### **Academic Integrity Incidents Report**

2023 (This includes both Winter of 2023 and Fall 2023 combined): 57 determined incidents of academic dishonesty. 2 cases of plagiarism and 55 of cheating.

2024 (Winter only): 31 incidents of academic dishonesty. 4 cases of plagiarism and 27 of cheating.

Between 2023-2024 there were 3 students that had two cases each. This represents 3.4%.

Penalties for all incidents range from grade impacts on assignments, exams, essays or overall, from percentage decreases all the way to failure.

## Graduate Program Entrance Requirements

From the Acadia University calendar page 14 (<https://registrar.acadiau.ca/AcademicCalendars.html>):

*Candidates for admission to the graduate programs of Acadia University must possess an Honours degree or a four-year bachelor's degree from an approved university. Those candidates possessing a major in a field other than that of their graduate program will normally be required to take sufficient undergraduate courses to make up the equivalent of an Acadia undergraduate major. Special consideration may be given to those candidates wishing to change from one undergraduate field to a related graduate one.*

*Candidates must have at least a B- average (70%) in the courses taken in the major field in the last two undergraduate years (or 60h) of university study, including coursework in undergraduate degree(s) and any graduate work completed. Applicants to all MEd programs must have at least a B average (73-76%) in their final two years of full-time equivalent (60h) university study, including coursework in undergraduate degree(s) and any graduate work completed.*

### ADD THE FOLLOWING

It is expected that applicants will review the applicable graduate program website to learn about faculty research specializations and connect with possible research supervisors *before* applying to see what resources are available to them.

Admission is highly competitive, and the number of students admitted each cycle or year may vary depending on the applicant pool and resource availability. It is important to note that possession of the minimum requirements *does not* guarantee admission. Our programs are small to reflect our university tradition of personal contact and individual attention; unfortunately, we cannot accept all applicants, and excellent students are often not accepted. All prospective students are encouraged to apply and will be considered based on resource availability and evidence of probable success in their chosen program. The admitting average varies and can be competitive depending on the program of choice. For research-based programs, it is important to note that lack of faculty resources due to program over-capacity, or similar reasons, could also result in an unfavorable admission decision that is not related to the merit of the admission application. Applicants will only be considered for a program when a formal application, all supporting documentation, and the applicable application fee, is received.

Admission to research-based programs is centred on evidence of overall academic excellence, including in research ability, critical thinking, writing ability, and knowledge of and aptitude for the area of research interest. This evidence may be provided in applicants' transcripts (including both the courses taken and the grades earned), resume, confidential reference letters/on-line reference forms, writing sample, and/or statement of research interests.

Several programs have a requirement to identify/secure a willing Acadia supervisor prior to applying as a key piece of entry/admission.

For further details pertaining to a specific program, please refer to: <https://www2.acadiau.ca/admissions/graduate-application.html>

### **Offer of Admission**

Students are expected to have sufficient means of financial support for the length of time normally required to complete the graduate program in which they intend to enroll.

The offer of admission is a contract with the student. There is currently **no** university-mandated minimum level of financial support for graduate students, although many graduate programs have established internal policies indicating such an amount such as our Master of Science in BIOL, CHEM, ENVS, GEOL and GEOM.

Students are encouraged to work with their supervisors, or Graduate Coordinators (in the case of our Master of Arts programs), to identify funding opportunities when funding is not noted in the offer letter. The Graduate Studies Office is not responsible for this and should not be contacted for funding.

All applicants to graduate studies are strongly encouraged to seek external funding support.

### **Graduate Application Retention Policies**

Current sentence in the University Calendar on page 15: Documents submitted in support of an application for admission are retained by the University and are not returned to the applicant.

#### **ADD THE FOLLOWING POLICIES**

1. Applications that go unsubmitted will be deleted from our system when the deadline has passed for program consideration.
2. Submitted applications that are missing required supporting documentation and/or applicable application fee will be withdrawn when the deadline has passed for program consideration.
3. Applications requiring an Acadia supervisor's approval that are not submitted within 30 days of being started, will be deleted from our system.
4. Two (2) years after the start of the application year, any applicant not admitted to a program, will have their application and all personal data deleted from our system.
5. Those applicants that are admitted to a graduate program will have their application and personal data deleted from our system eight (8) years after being admitted.