



# School of Physical and Occupational Therapy

EXCELLENCE THROUGH GROWTH

## Guidelines for waiving the M.Sc. Thesis requirements and proceeding directly into Ph.D. Program

1. M.Sc. students in Rehabilitation Science can request to waive the M.Sc. thesis and proceed directly into the Ph.D. Program if they demonstrate a superior performance in the M.Sc. Program.  
  
Superior performance is based on the following criteria:
  - a. An A<sup>-</sup> average in their coursework;
  - b. Grading of Very Good to Excellent in the M.Sc. proposal presentation OR in a presentation on their research progress;
  - c. Evidence of research ability either by collecting pilot data or having prior research experience.
2. Students requesting to proceed directly into the Ph.D. Program must advise the Graduate Program Director and Graduate Committee in writing, explaining their reasons for this request. Confidential letters of recommendation by the internal supervisor and external supervisor must be submitted at the same time. The student will also complete an on-line application form for the Ph.D. Program and pay the application fee.
3. A meeting will be set up between the Graduate Committee, the primary supervisor(s) and the Graduate Student. The student will be asked to give a 15-20 minutes presentation on their research progress and the reasons for wanting to proceed directly to the Ph.D. Program.
4. Based on the supervisor's recommendation, the Graduate Committee will determine whether or not to recommend to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Office that the student be admitted directly into the Ph.D. Program.
5. If the student has already presented a M.Sc. research proposal that was approved, and because the student is continuing in this line of investigation, the goals of the Ph.D. research proposal will be as follows:
  - 1) Since a written proposal is not required for the M.Sc. research proposal, the student will submit a PhD proposal, which would include a summary of the results to date from the M.Sc. research. An evaluation would be undertaken for this written part, as the material has not already been peer-reviewed.
  - 2) *In lieu* of the oral presentation, the student would give a seminar presenting data of their research to date, and would discuss the next series of experiments to be undertaken.
  - 3) The seminar would be judged on a Pass/Fail basis by a Ph.D. Research Proposal Committee.