

## ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT STANDARDS - GRADUATE PROGRAMS

In addition to the regular organizational assessment standards, the following standards shall be applied to institutions proposing graduate programs. These organizational assessment standards may be applied in the case of an institution proposing to offer its first graduate degree program, in which case the Council will, to some extent, be evaluating the institution's potential and plans to put in place the resources, personnel and organizational support to deliver and sustain graduate programs.

- **Graduate program policies** – Organizations proposing graduate programs have policies, structures and mechanisms in place appropriate to graduate studies and research (e.g., policies concerning supervisory responsibilities, appeal systems, satisfactory standing, etc.)
- **Commitment to graduate students** – The institution has core faculty committed to the graduate program(s) and to the intellectual life of graduate students through sustained participation in activities involving graduate students (seminars, colloquia, conferences, journal clubs, etc.). The organization is committed to the timely program completion of its graduate students and to their financial support through such means as teaching assistantships, scholarships, bursaries, faculty research grants, research contracts, etc. The quality of graduate supervision is commensurate with an excellent program.
- **Faculty** – Faculty, as a group, should provide intellectual leadership. In doctoral and research-oriented master's programs, the scholarly activity and intellectual atmosphere of the academic unit is based on the number and quality of significant publications or creative research output of the members and on the unit's continuing insistence on originality and excellence. In the case of programs in professional areas, there must be a solid basis of appropriate scholarly or creative activities.
  - The evidence of accomplishment must be demonstrated through peer review and critical analysis, with peer-adjudicated publication as the predominant way of assessing scholarly achievement in the traditional disciplines. For some fields of study, evidence of professional achievement and intellectual leadership may be inferred from other scholarly or creative activities.
  - It is essential that the intellectual engagement of the faculty, as a whole, be maintained through regular participation in scholarly activities, the validity of which has been verified by peer review. Most members of the unit must be involved in ongoing research and publications of findings, or other scholarly activity as appropriate. The commitment to graduate students, above, also requires a faculty involved in the scholarly life of the department and institution.
  - Research done by the department or unit should have, or have the potential to have, a significant impact provincially, nationally and internationally, commensurate with the size of the department or unit, and appropriate to the program being proposed.
- **Library and information resources** – The institution must provide the essential information resources to support appropriate graduate student work. These resources must be adequate for the number of students enrolled and for the level of study.

- **Research facilities** – The institution has laboratory, computer, studio, and/or creative facilities, as well as essential resources, to support the faculty and students adequately in their research.