



**School of Physical and Occupational Therapy  
(Graduate)**

**Programs, Courses and University Regulations  
2023-2024**



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This publication provides guidance to prospects, applicants, students, faculty and staff.

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- 1 Dean's Welcome, page 7
- 2 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, page 7
  - 2.1 Administrative Officers, page 7
  - 2.2 Location, page 7
  - 2.3 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' Mission, page 7
- 3 Important Dates, page 7
- 4 Graduate Studies at a Glance, page 8
- 5 Program Requirements, page 8
- 6 Graduate Admissions and Application Procedures, page 8
- 7 Fellowships, Awards, and Assistantships, page 8
- 8 Postdoctoral Research, page 8
  - 8.1 Postdocs, page 8
  - 8.2 Guidelines and Policy for Academic Units on Postdoctoral Education, page 9
  - 8.3 Vacation Policy for Postdocs, page 10
  - 8.4 Leave of Absence for Health and Parental/Familial Reasons, page 10
  - 8.5 Postdoctoral Research Trainees, page 11
- 9 Graduate Studies Guidelines and Policies, page 11
- 10 Graduate Student Services and Information, page 11
- 11 Information on Research Policies and Guidelines, Patents, Postdocs, Associates, Trainees, page 12
- 12 Becoming a Licensed Occupational or Physical Therapist, page 12
  - 12.1 Licensing Regulations, page 12
  - 12.2 Program Accreditation, page 13
  - 12.3 Professional Organizations, page 13
- 13 Student Evaluation and Promotion, page 14
  - 13.1 Degree Requirements for the Master of Science (Applied) – Occupational

14.1.9 Master of Science, Applied (M.Sc.A.OT.) Occupational Therapy (Non-Thesis) (63 credits) , page 23

14.1.10 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Rehabilitation Science , page 24

14.1.11







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## 8.2 Guidelines and Policy for Academic Units on Postdoctoral Education

Every unit hosting postdocs should apply institutional policies and procedures for the provision of postdoctoral education and have established means for informing postdocs of policies, procedures, and privileges (available at [mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs](http://mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs)), as well as mechanisms for addressing complaints. For their part, postdocs are responsible for informing themselves of such policies, procedures, and privileges.

### 1. Definition and Status

- i. Postdoctoral status will be recognized by the University in accordance with Quebec provincial regulations as may be modified from time to time. The eligibility period for postdoctoral status is up to five years from the date when the Ph.D. or equiv

- i. Postdocs are subject to the responsibilities outlined at [mcgill.ca/students/srr](http://mcgill.ca/students/srr) and must abide by the policies listed at [mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies-and-regulations](http://mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies-and-regulations).
- ii. Each academic unit hosting postdocs should clearly identify postdocs' needs and the means by which they will be met by the unit.
- iii. Each academic unit should assess the availability of research supervision facilities, office space, and research funding before recruiting postdocs.
- iv. Some examples of the responsibilities of the academic unit are:
  - to verify the postdoc's eligibility period for registration;
  - to provide postdocs with departmental policy and procedures that pertain to them;
  - to facilitate the registration and appointment of postdocs;
  - to assign departmental personnel the responsibility for postdoctoral affairs in the unit;
  - to oversee and sign off on the Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education;
  - to ensure that each postdoc has a supervisor, lab and/or office space, access to research operating costs and necessary equipment;
  - to include postdocs in departmental career and placement opportunities; and
  - to refer postdocs to the appropriate University policies and personnel for the resolution of conflict that may arise between a postdoc and a supervisor.
- v. Some examples of the responsibilities of the supervisor are:
  - to uphold and transmit to their postdocs the highest professional standards of research and/or scholarship;
  - to provide research guidance;
  - to meet regularly with their postdocs;
  - to provide feedback on research submitted by the postdocs;
  - to clarify expectations regarding intellectual property rights in accordance with the University's policy;
  - to provide mentorship for career development; and
  - to prepare, sign, and adhere to a Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education.
- vi. Some examples of the responsibilities of postdocs are:
  - to inform themselves of and adhere to the University's policies and/or regulations for postdocs as outlined at [mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs](http://mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs) and [mcgill.ca/students/srr](http://mcgill.ca/students/srr), and the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies *University Regulations and Resources*;
  - to submit a complete file for registration to Enrolment Services;
  - to sign and adhere to their Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education;
  - to communicate regularly with their supervisor; and
  - to inform their supervisor of their absences.
- vii. Some examples of the responsibilities of the University are:
  - to register postdocs;
  - to provide an appeal mechanism in cases of conflict;
  - to provide documented policies and procedures to postdocs;
  - to provide postdocs with the necessary information on McGill University student services (Postdoctoral Fellows and Scholars) and HR policies and guidelines (Postdoctoral Researchers).

*Approved by Senate, April 2000; revised May 2014; February 2020.*

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### 8.3 Vacation Policy for Postdocs

Please refer to the : [Vacation Policy for Graduate Students and Postdocs](#).

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### 8.4 Leave of Absence for Health and Parental/Familial Reasons

A leave of absence may be granted for maternity or parental reasons or for health reasons (see [University Regulations & Resources > Graduate > Leave of Absence Status](#)).

Such a leave must be requested on a term-by-term basis and may be granted for a period of up to 52 weeks. For a maternity or parental leave, the eligibility period of a maximum of 52 consecutive weeks is determined based on when the child is born; if the leave is interrupted for one or two terms, the eligibility period cannot be extended. Students and Postdocs must make a request for such a leave in writing to their department and submit a medical certificate. The department shall forward the request to Enrolment Services. See the procedure in [University Regulations & Resources > Graduate > Leave of Absence Status](#).

Students who have been granted such a leave will have to register for the term(s) in question and their registration will show as "leave of absence" on their record. No tuition fees will be charged for the duration of the authorized leave. Research supervisors are not obligated to remunerate students and Postdocs on leave. A summary table of various leave policies (paid or unpaid) for students and Postdocs paid from the Federal and Quebec Councils through fellowships or research grants is available at [mcgill.ca/gps/funding/getting-paid](http://mcgill.ca/gps/funding/getting-paid) under "Leave Policies and Form."

## 8.5 Postdoctoral Research Trainees

### Eligibility

If your situation does not conform to the Government of Quebec's definition of a Postdoctoral Fellow, you may be eligible to attend McGill as a Postdoctoral Research Trainee. While at McGill, you can perform research only (you may not register for courses or engage in clinical practice). Medical specialists who will have clinical exposure and require a training card must register through Postgraduate Medical Education of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences—not Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

The category of Postdoctoral Research Trainee is for:

**Category 1:** An individual who has completed requirements for the Doctoral degree or medical specialty, but whose degree/certification has not yet been awarded. An individual in this category will subsequently be eligible for registration as a Postdoctoral Fellow.

**Category 2:** An individual who is not eligible for Postdoctoral Registration according to the Government of Quebec's definition, but is a recipient of an external postdoctoral award from a recognized Canadian funding agency.

**Category 3:** An individual who holds a professional degree (or equivalent) in a regulated health profession (as defined under CIHR-eligible health profession) and is enrolled in a program of postgraduate medical education at another institution. This individual wishes to conduct the research stage or elective component of their program of study at McGill University under the supervision of a McGill professor. This individual will be engaged in full-time research with well-defined objectives, responsibilities, and methods of reporting. Applications must be accompanied by a letter of permission from the applicant's home institution (signed by the Department Chair, Dean, or equivalent) confirming registration in their program and stating the expected duration of the research stage. Individuals who are expecting to spend more than one year are encouraged to obtain formal training (Master's or Ph.D.) through application to a relevant graduate program.

**Category 4:** An individual with a regulated health professional degree (as defined under CIHR-eligible health profession), but not a Ph.D. or equivalent or medical specialty training, but who fulfils criteria for funding on a tri-council operating grant or by a CIHR fellowship (up to maximum of five years post-degree).



**Note:** Individuals who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents must inquire about eligibility for a work permit.

### General Conditions

- The maximum duration is three years.
- The individual must be engaged in full-time research.
- The individual must provide copies of official transcripts/diplomas.
- The individual must have the approval of a McGill professor to supervise the research and of the Unit.
- The individual must have adequate proficiency in English, but is not required to provide official proof of English competency to Enrolment Services.
- The individual must comply with regulations and procedures governing research ethics and safety and obtain the necessary training.
- The individual will be provided access to McGill libraries, email, and required training in research ethics and safety. Any other University services must be purchased (e.g., access to athletic facilities).
- The individual must arrange for basic health insurance coverage prior to arrival at McGill and may be required to provide proof of coverage.

## 9 Graduate Studies Guidelines and Policies

Refer to [University Regulations & Resources](#) > [Graduate](#) > [: Guidelines and Policies](#) for information on the following:

- Guidelines and Regulations for Academic Units on Graduate Student Advising and Supervision
- Policy on Graduate Student Research Progress Tracking
- Ph.D. Comprehensives Policy
- Graduate Studies Reread Policy
- Failure Policy
- Guideline on Hours of Work

## 10 Graduate Student Services and Information

Graduate students are encouraged to refer to [: Student Services and Information](#) for information on the following topics:

- Service Point
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services – Downtown and Macdonald Campuses
- Residential Facilities
- Athletics and Recreation
- Ombudsperson for Students
- Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities
- Bookstore
- Computer Store

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## 11 Information on Research Policies and Guidelines, Patents, Postdocs, Associates, Trainees

Refer to [University Regulations & Resources](#) > [Graduate](#) > : [Research Policy and Guidelines](#)

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## **12.2 Program Accreditation**

The Professional Master's program has received accreditation status by Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada.

The Occupational Therapy program is accredited by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists.

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## **12.3 Professional Organizations**

### **Canadian National Offices**

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists  
100-34 Colonnade Road  
Ottawa ON K2E 7J6  
Telephone: 613-523-CAOT(2268); 1-800-434-CAOT(2268) (toll-free)

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## 13 Student Evaluation and Promotion

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### 13.1 Degree Requirements for the Master of Science (Applied) – Occupational Therapy (M.Sc.A.OT.), and the Master of Science (Applied) – Physical Therapy (M.Sc.A.PT.)

Entry to professional practice requires the completion of an M.Sc.A.OT. or M.Sc.A.PT. Therefore, students who graduate from the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation (OT or PT) must continue to the MSc(A) OT or MSc(A) PT to obtain entry to professional practice.

Students who graduate with the B.Sc.Rehab.Sc. degree with the required cGPA of 3.0 or better will be considered for acceptance into the same discipline of the Master of Science (Applied) program that commences in the summer following graduation. For full details, refer to the Rules and Regulations documents at [School of Physical & Occupational Therapy > Occupational Therapy Program > Master of Science \(Applied\) in Occupational Therapy](#) and [School of Physical & Occupational Therapy > Physical Therapy Program > Master of Science \(Applied\) in Physical Therapy](#).

Entry to the MSc(A) OT or MSc(A) PT requires students to have a minimum cGPA of 3.0. Even when the cGPA requirement is attained, the Occupational Therapy Promotions and Review Committee (OTPRC) or the Physical Therapy Promotion and Review Committee (PTPRC) may recommend that a student not be admitted to the Master's program if, during the Bachelor's program: (i) the student has had 3 or more documented performance deficiencies (flags), with or without probationary status; or (ii) the student has not progressed sufficiently toward achievement of the required skills and attributes for entry to practice.

Students from McGill or elsewhere who do not hold the B.Sc.Rehab.Sc. - Major in Occupational or Physical Therapy degree must apply to the Master's program via a graduate Qualifying Year, or have the option to first apply to the undergraduate degree of B.Sc.Rehab.Sc. - Major in OT or PT and proceed to the M.Sc.A. degree in the same discipline.

For further details and other requirements, please refer to the [School of Physical & Occupational Therapy > Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies](#) section. For complete admissions information, refer to [2.52/57e and other programs/admissions](#).

#### **Student Evaluation and Promotion MSc(A) OT and MSc(A) PT**

Academic matters are the jurisdiction of the Occupational Therapy Promotion and Review Committee (OTPRC) or the Physical Therapy Promotion and Review Committee (PTPRC). The OTPRC and the PTPRC review the academic record, professional conduct, and general performance of students throughout the Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy programs. It ex

You must successfully complete all the requirements of each promotion period before being permitted to enter the next promotion period. In order to be promoted to the next promotion period, a student must successfully complete all professional courses in each promotion period, as well as all requirements for inter-professional education courses.

The required minimum passing grade is a B- (65%) for all courses with the designation of OCC1, PHTH, and POTH. As well, for any course with the designation of OCC1, PHTH, or POTH, which comprises both individual and group evaluations, or both theoretical and practical evaluations, each student must pass every component in order to receive a passing grade for the course (the minimum passing grade is a B- (65%)).



**Note:** Courses with a Subject Code OCC1, PHTH, or POTH are reserved for students enrolled in programs within the School of Physical & Occupational Therapy.

No evaluation, examination mark, etc. shall be considered final until approved by the OTPRC or the PTPRC. Only final grades submitted on Minerva are the official McGill grades. myCourses (McGill's Learning Management system) is a tool but not the source for final grades.

For the purposes of evaluation, the curriculum is broken down into the following promotion periods:

QY:

Promotion Period 1 Fall September–December

Promotion Period 2 Winter January–April

M1 and M2:

Promotion Period 1 M1 Summer May–August

Promotion Period 2 M1 Fall September–December

Promotion Period 3 M1 Winter January–April

Promotion Period 4 M2 Fall–program completion (includes summer research project)

#### **Failure Policy, Withdrawal, or Dismissal from the School of Physical & Occupational Therapy**

When a student has failed one course, or one or more course components, or has been found to have been engaged in unethical or inappropriate conduct (i.e., unprofessional behaviour), the OTPRC or the PTPRC will automatically review the student's entire academic record and general performance.

A student will be withdrawn from the University, if the student fails two courses (i.e., tw





### 14.1.2 About the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy

As part of McGill's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, we are proud of the outstanding academic environment we offer to our students. The School of Physical and Occupational Therapy is situated on McGill University's Downtown Campus in the beautiful city of Montreal, Quebec.

The School offers **master's** and **doctorate** programs in three areas:

- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Rehabilitation Sciences

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*section 14.1.12: Graduate Certificate (Gr. Cert.) Chronic Pain Management (15 credits)*

The 15-credit postgraduate certificate program aims to train healthcare professionals on the most recent and relevant approaches and technologies for the care and management of chronic pain with an interdisciplinary perspective. The program comprises four core courses offered online and one elective course, which can be online or a directed practicum.

### **14.1.3 Clinical Placements, Language, Vaccination, and CPR Requirements**

Clinical hours necessary to obtain membership in both the national associations and provincial licensing bodies for each profession are included within the professional master's programs (M.Sc.A. Occupational Therapy and M.Sc.A. Physical Therapy). This standard is compatible with the licensing requirements in other provinces where legislation is in force.

Working knowledge of both English and French is essential for students who will be working in clinical affiliations throughout the province of Quebec. French is the official language in Quebec and thus health and social services administered by the Ministry of Health are bound by the Charter of the French Language. This means that all health and social service institutions operate in French. Certain institutions have a bilingual mandate for patient care, but team meetings and dealings with third party agencies operate in French only. Some of the clinical communication competencies you will exercise during your studies include: listening to a client or their family describe the reason for consulting, asking questions to learn more, explaining a condition in formal and informal terms, and communicating with other healthcare professionals such as doctors, nurses, and physiotherapists. This could be in-person, on the phone, or with written documentation.

As such, all applicants should be aware that any clinical placements in the province of Quebec require the ability to communicate (written and oral) in French. Refer to the details for the admission requirements of proof of French proficiency in the [Qualifying Year Admissions Guides](#).

Students must therefore possess the recommended minimum level of oral and written French, as outlined in the admission guides, prior to the start of clinical practica. Students who do not speak French will have limited clinical placement opportunities. This may result in delayed graduation from the program.

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### **Graduate Certificate in Chronic Pain Management**

1. A B.Sc. degree or equivalent in a health-related discipline from a university of recognized reputation;
2. Evidence of high academic achievement, equivalent to a B standing or a McGill CGPA of 3.0 (70–74%);
3. See points 3, 4, and 5 under M.Sc. in Rehabilitation Science (Thesis) above for more information on prerequisites, TOEFL, and GRE.

#### **14.1.4.2 Application Procedures**

McGill's online application form for graduate program candidates is available at [mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply](http://mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply).

See [University Regulations & Resources](#) > [Graduate](#) > [Graduate Admissions and Application Procedures](#) > : [Application Procedures](#) for detailed application procedures.

##### **14.1.4.2.1 Additional Requirements**

The items and clarifications below are additional requirements set by this department:

- Curriculum vitae
- [GRE](#) – recommended for M.Sc. in Rehabilitation Science (Thesis and Non-Thesis) and Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Science for applicants who do not have a B.Sc., or equiv

### Academic Associate

Monica Slanik

### Adjunct Professors and Associate Members

Nancy Alarie; Julie Côté; Mayada Elsabbagh; Sharon Henry; Michael Sullivan; Walter Wittich.

#### 14.1.6 Master of Science (M.Sc.) Rehabilitation Science (Thesis) (45 credits)

The M.Sc. in Rehabilitation Science; Thesis program focuses on interdisciplinary research related to health and rehabilitation. The program provides training in the use of methodologies for knowledge synthesis and for designing and conducting research studies in rehabilitation. A major component of the program is the development and implementation of an individualized thesis project in a specialized area of interest in health and rehabilitation (e.g., brain, education, global health, musculoskeletal, heart and lung, mental health and pain).

##### Thesis Courses (29 credits)

POTH 696	(2)	Thesis Research
POTH 697	(6)	Thesis Research 1
POTH 698	(9)	Thesis Research 2
POTH 699	(12)	Thesis Research 3

##### Required Courses (10 credits)

POTH 609	(3)	Qualitative Research in Rehabilitation Science
POTH 610	(4)	Research Methodology
POTH 614	(3)	Selected Topics in Rehabilitation Science
POTH 617	(0)	Knowledge Synthesis in Rehabilitation Science

##### Complementary Courses (3 credits)

3 credits of the following:

POTH 628	(3)	Introduction to Analysis
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Or 3 credits of advanced qualitative methodology chosen from courses offered by the School at the 500, 600, or 700 level in consultation with the Graduate Program Director.

##### Elective Course (3 credits)

3 credits that pertain to the student's area of specialization: to be chosen from the School course offerings or other courses at the 500, 600, or 700 level with permission from the Graduate Program Director.

**Master of Science (M.Sc.) Rehabilitation Science (Thesis) (45 credits)**

**Complementary Courses (20 credits)**

20 credits of courses that pertain to the student's area of specialization; to be chosen from the School course offerings or other courses at the 500, 600 or 700 level with permission from the Graduate Program Director.

**14.1.8 Master of Science, Applied (M.Sc.A.PT.) Physical Therapy (Non-Thesis) (63 credits)**

The Master of Science, Applied, in Physical Therapy is a 62-credit program to be completed in 1.5 graduate years over five semesters, and includes four clinical practica of 1,050 hours in total, leading to professional licensure to practice. The educational approach is consistent with adult learning, self-directed learning, reflective clinical practice, and inter-professionalism. Strong links between academic and clinical fieldwork education are emphasized. Courses emphasize client-centred and evidence-based practice across the lifespan and health care continuum, and include health promotion from prevention of disability to rehabilitation. In addition to fieldwork, the program requirements include courses in advanced clinical practice, research methodology, and educational methodology. The master's project prepares the entry-to-practice physiotherapist to become an autonomous and effective professional through the acquisition of research skills.

For additional information on courses taken during the Qualifying year, please refer to this website: <http://www.mcgill.ca/spot/programs/pt/curriculum>.

Students admitted to the M.Sc.A. who have undergraduate degrees other than the B.Sc.(Rehabilitation Science); Major in Physical Therapy from McGill University will be required to complete a Qualifying year of study, prior to beginning the master's program.

**Required Courses (57 credits)**

IPEA 502	(0)	Patient-Centred Care in Action
IPEA 503	(0)	Managing Interprofessional Conflict
PHTH 571	(7)	PT Clinical Practicum 1
PHTH 572	(7)	PT Clinical Practicum 2
PHTH 573	(8)	PT Clinical Practicum 3
PHTH 606	(2)	Introduction to Pediatric Physical Therapy
PHTH 620	(7)	PT Clinical Practicum 4
PHTH 622	(3)	Integrated Pain Management
PHTH 623	(4)	Differential Diagnosis and Management
PHTH 652	(3)	Integrated Clinical Exercise Rehabilitation
POTH 602	(3)	Advanced Educational and Management Strategies
POTH 612	(4)	Applied Clinical Research Methods
POTH 624	(7)	Master's Project
POTH 682	(2)	Promoting Healthy Activity

**Complementary Courses (6 credits)**

6 credits from the following:

PHTH 641	(3)	Topics in Cardiorespiratory Rehabilitation
PHTH 645	(3)	Pelvic Floor Rehabilitation
PHTH 661	(3)	Sport Physiotherapy
PHTH 662	(3)	Advanced Manual Therapy
POTH 508	(3)	Plasticity in Rehabilitation
POTH 604	(3)	Current Topics in Pediatrics
POTH 625D1*	(1.5)	Design of Assistive Technologies: Principles
POTH 625D2*	(1.5)	Design of Assistive Technologies: Principles
POTH 636	(3)	Physical Therapy in Pediatrics
POTH 637	(3)	Cancer Rehabilitation
POTH 639	(3)	Motor Control
POTH 685	(3)	Perception and Action

\* Students must take both POTH 625D1 and 625D2

NOTE: Interprofessional Education Activities (IPEAs)

POTH 640

(3)

Role-Emerging Management

\*If selected, students must take both POTH 625D1 and POTH 625D2.

NOTE: Interprofessional Education



Driving

