



School of Graduate Studies

University of Toronto

November 26, 2004

Professor Vivek Goel
Vice-President and Provost
Room 225, Simcoe Hall
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Goel:

At its meeting of November 23, 2004, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

THAT SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences for a Flexible-Time Ph.D. Program Option, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective September 2005.

The motion and supporting documentation are attached. Division II Executive Committee approved this proposal at its meeting of November 2, 2004.

On behalf of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, I am presenting this item to Governing Council committees for information.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Alderdice
Secretary to SGS Council
and Coordinator of Policy, Program and Liaison

Encl. (1)

/gj

c.c.	S. Acker	A. Drummond	C. Johnston	H. Lasthiotakis	R. Macgregor
	V. Makarovska	P. O'Brian	S. Pfeiffer	L. Yee	S. Zaky (attachments)

H:Council/FollowUp/2004-2005/Nov 23/Pharmaceutical Sciences, PhD, flex-time option

Motion

School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, November 23, 2004

Item 8.

8. New Options Within Existing Programs

8.1 Pharmaceutical Sciences Flexible-time Ph.D. Program Option

MOTION (/) THAT SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences for a Flexible-Time Ph.D. Program Option, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective September 2005.

See attached.

NOTE:

See rationale attached.

Division II Executive Committee approved this proposal at its meeting of November 2, 2004.

With SGS Council approval, this item will go to Governing Council committees for information.

REVISED

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Proposal for Flexible-Time Ph.D. Program Option

The Graduate Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences requests approval to offer under special circumstances a flexible-time Ph.D. program option to students who have completed a master's program or bachelor's degree in the pharmaceutical sciences or in a discipline relevant to the pharmaceutical sciences. This program is intended for professionals whose employment is closely related to their proposed area of research. Professionals would be defined broadly and would include those practicing the profession of pharmacy and also those holding positions as pharmaceutical scientists in industry, government or academia. This program will benefit mature, career-minded individuals who are unable to undertake full-time studies due to professional obligations. The admission of the students and the requirements of the Ph.D. degree will follow the Guidelines of SGS approved by SGS Council in May 1995. Students to the flexible-time PhD program option must hold a M.Sc. degree or its equivalent from a recognized university. Under exceptional circumstances, students may be admitted directly to the program with an honours B.Sc. degree. The only difference between the flexible-time Ph.D. program option and the full-time program is the flexible delivery of the program, which allows students (a) to take longer and more flexible timeframe to completion and (b) to remain employed for more time than that anticipated for full-time students (e.g. 10 hours per week) while completing the program.

Rationale

By necessity, learning in pharmaceutical sciences and related sciences needs to be a life-long process responsive to the dynamic changes that occur in the workplace. The role of a university should be to provide the opportunities for continual learning throughout one's professional or scientific career. A graduate from a bachelor's or master's program should be well prepared to embrace the area of pharmaceutical sciences and contribute productively early in his/her career, but later responsibilities often have increased or changed, or the field may have fundamentally advanced such that additional training and education are necessary to continue to be productive and make important contributions. Furthermore, new opportunities and career directions frequently present themselves that were not available at graduation, or were not revealed due to the limited exposure of students to the profession or field. Finally, employers may be motivated to support their employees who want to pursue Ph.D. degrees, either through work release or flex-time, or financial support of the employees during their graduate training. The opportunity to pursue a flexible-time Ph.D. program option would therefore promote and enhance an environment of continual self-improvement and learning, while not disrupting a career path that in itself is contributing to this process. Importantly, the flexible-time Ph.D. program option would provide a unique opportunity to merge the ideas of the workplace with the ideas of academia to allow exceptionally mature and experienced students to pursue a unique research program. The flexible-time Ph.D. option, through offering programs of research that link the workplace with academia would foster collaborations, partnerships and collegiality between the university and the pharmaceutical industry, university-affiliated teaching and research hospitals, government agencies and the broader pharmacy and healthcare communities. Finally, it would nurture the emergence of leaders in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences by augmenting their credentials as experienced professionals with the education and training needed to be successful as research scientists in order to push forward the frontiers of the profession and related sciences.

There is also an urgent need to provide an avenue for investigators in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, particularly those in the Social and Administrative Pharmacy field to create new opportunities for pharmacists and other health care practitioners to pursue a Ph.D. program on a flex-time basis. This is especially evident in association with the recent expansion at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, which has resulted in growth in both student enrolment and in the hiring of tenure-stream research faculty.

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With the addition of 10.5 new graduate faculty members thus far and an effective recruitment campaign, the number of graduate students has almost doubled in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. In particular the number of Ph.D. students has increased from 25 in 1998-1999 to 63 in 2003-2004. This dramatic increase in the number of Ph.D. students is indicative of our efforts and success in strengthening our graduate program in response to the university's mission of "Stepping Up".

Eligibility and Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet all admission requirements for entry to the Ph.D. program option set by the School of Graduate Studies and the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Applicants must be professionals whose employment is closely related to their proposed areas of research. In addition, a letter of support from the employer will be required. The departmental admissions committee will review the applications and admission will be highly selective **with preference given to:**

- a) applicants who are members in good standing of a regulated profession or scientific society and**
- b) applicants who hold a university appointment in Canada at an academic standard equivalent to the University of Toronto Lecturer.**

Academic and Performance Requirements

The academic and performance requirements for the flexible-time Ph.D. program option are the same as for the full-time Ph.D. program except for the flexibility in the delivery of the program. Students who have a master's degree are required to complete two full courses, and those who have a bachelor's degree, three full courses or equivalent. The program requirements except for the theses must be completed by the end of the third year for students who entered the program with a master's degree and by the end of the fourth year, in the case of direct entry from a bachelor's degree. Students must ensure that they have adequate time on campus to attend classes and fulfill the academic requirements.

Registration

Students in the flexible-time Ph.D. program option will register full-time during the first four years if they have entered the program from a master's degree and full-time during the first five years, in the case of direct entry from a bachelor's degree, and part-time during subsequent years of the program. The students will be required to be registered for each successive term, including the summers, on a full- or part-time basis, following their first term of registration, unless granted a leave of absence.

Time Limit

The time limit for completion of the flexible-time Ph.D. program option from first registration in the program will be eight years for those with a master's degree and nine years for those with a bachelor's degree from first registration in the program.

Transfer between Full-Time and Flexible-Time Streams

Transfers from the flexible-time Ph.D. program option to the full-time program will be permitted contingent upon approval of a formal application by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the School of Graduate Studies. Students, who transferred from the flexible-time PhD program option to the full-time Ph.D. program, will be provided with the standard guaranteed stipend for full-time PhD students. Transfers from the full-time to the flexible-time Ph.D. program option **will not be automatic and will be considered only for students who meet all the criteria for admission to the flexible-time program option.** For students who transferred from full-time to flexible-time Ph.D. program option, the financial support (i.e., stipend) will follow the guidelines for flexible-time Ph.D. program option (see Resources section below).

November 30, 2004

Transfer from Part-Time M.Sc. to Flexible-Time Ph.D. Program Option

Transfer from the part-time M.Sc. program to the flexible-time Ph.D. program option will be considered only for students who have completed the requirements for transfer to the Ph.D. program, including successful completion of the transfer exam within 24 months of enrolment in the M.Sc. program. In addition, the students must meet all the criteria for admission to the flexible-time Ph.D. program option.

Projected Enrolment

We anticipate that once the flexible-time Ph.D. program option is introduced, 2-4 current part-time master's students would transfer to the program and 1-3 new students would likely register for the program, for a total of 3-7 students in the first year of the program. The number of students in the program over the next 5 years would depend on its attractiveness to potential candidates, on the ability of faculty to create positions for students, and on the availability of financial and other resources required to support the program.

Resources

The research supervisor (faculty member) will provide direct expenses related to the research component of the student's thesis-related studies, where required. Since students in the flexible-time Ph.D. program option will maintain their full-time employment, the research supervisors and the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences will not be responsible for providing a stipend to support the living expenses and tuition for students.

Thesis Supervision and Schedule of Study

The flexible-time Ph.D. student will be directly supervised by a full member of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and his/her progress will be reviewed at least once per year by a thesis advisory committee as described in the department's policies and procedures for a Ph.D. student. The student will pursue a program of research and coursework leading to the Ph.D. degree and must write and defend his/her thesis as for a full-time Ph.D. student. All coursework and presentation requirements must be met. The student must attend/present at the Graduate Research in Progress (GRIP) meetings held by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Attendance at the research seminar program is required and will be monitored by the department, as for full-time students. The schedule of research and coursework study will be established through discussions between the research supervisor (faculty member) and the student early in the program, keeping in mind the time limitations for program completion.

Intellectual Property Resulting from Flexible-Time Ph.D. Enrolment

Intellectual property resulting from students' thesis work will be treated according to the University of Toronto's applicable intellectual property policies and procedures. Generally, a student and the student's employer would be asked to acknowledge that, for the purposes of carrying out the student's academic program, the student will not be considered to be an employee, all intellectual property resulting from the student's academic activities, including thesis work, will be owned in accordance with the University's policies (*i.e.* not by the employer) and the student will not be restricted in any way from publishing his or her research results.

In certain cases, the student's employer may wish to make contributions to the student's project. For example, the employer may provide funding for the direct and indirect costs of the project or in-kind contributions of materials, data, services, or facilities not available within the University. The employer's personnel may actively collaborate with the student in performance of the student's academic work. In these cases, the project may be treated as a collaborative project under a separate agreement between the University and the employer appropriate to the circumstances and in accordance with the University's policies.