

Fall 2025 Welcome Event College of Medicine Graduate Students & Postdoctoral Fellows

Wednesday, October 6, 2025, 11 AM



Dr. Kiven Erique Lukong

Assistant Dean Graduate Studies, College of Medicine



The Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies:

- Responsible for the strategic and academic leadership of learning, teaching and the graduate student experience in the College of Medicine (CoM)
- Director of the Health Sciences Graduate Program



Welcome!

Lamnso- Yirannia/Ah sahka?

French - Bienvenue/Salut.

Spanish - Bienvenido.

Ukrainian - Laskavo prosymoUrdu

Hindi-Khush Amdeed.

Romanian - Bine ati venit.

Japanese - Yōkoso.

Chinese - Huānyíng.



Land acknowledgement









"As we gather here today, we acknowledge we are on **Treaty 6 Territory** and the **Homeland of the Métis**.

We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another."

September 30, 2025

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (NDTR)

2025 marks Canada's 5th (NDTR).
The University of Saskatchewan observes the week before NDTR as the Week of Reflection.

This is a solemn and powerful day dedicated to honouring the children who never returned home from residential schools, as well as the Survivors, their families, and communities. It's also known as Orange Shirt Day.

https://medicine.usask.ca/news/2025/national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation.php

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



Agenda

Part 1

- Welcome address (Dr. Erique Lukong and Dr. Marek Radomski)
- Vision and mission
- Graduate studies structure at the CoM
- Vital statistics

Part 2: Health Sciences graduate studies

- Graduate program leadership and committee
- HSGP and manual update
- Stipends/scholarships

Part 3: Other Resources

- CGPS (11:30 am):
 - ✓ Dr. Marc Usunier, Senior Director, Graduate Student Services
 - ✓ Dr. Kenisha Blair, Professional Development Specialist

Part 4: CMGSS co-president, Taylor Dzikowski

- Questions/Discussion
- Adjourn



Introductions

- Dr. Sarah Forgie (Dean of Medicine)
- Dr. Marek Radomski (Vice-Dean Research, CoM)
- Dr. Erique Lukong (Assistant Dean Grad studies, CoM)
- Dr. Steve Milosavljevic (Co-chair, HSC)

(Dr. Erique Lukong's full address will be posted on the HSGS website)

Dean of Medicine



Dr. Sarah Forgie MD

Dean of Medicine

Dr. Sarah Forgie is the Dean of the College of Medicine.

- > Joined the University of Saskatchewan on July 1, 2024
- Professor and pediatric infectious disease specialist
- From the University of Alberta and Stollery Children's Hospital
- > Served as Vice-President of Pediatric Chairs of Canada
- Served as President of the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Canada.



Mission, vision, values, goals and strategic plan



Mission and Vision

Health Sciences Graduate Studies/Program

VISION

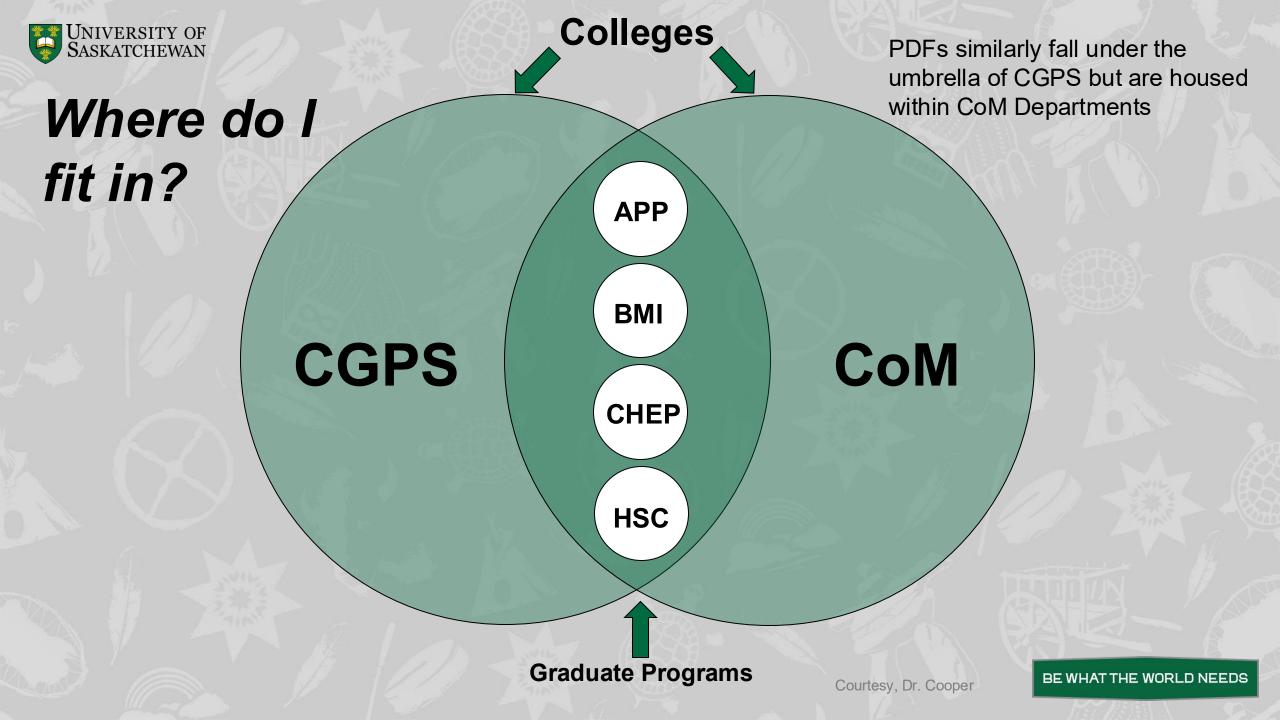
To establish the Health Sciences Graduate Program as a unique research-based multi-disciplinary program that will continue to attract, retain, train, and recognize a diverse group of outstanding graduate students, and mentor and transform them into leaders in their respective fields.

MISSION

To enable diverse groups of graduate students to broaden their perspectives on health sciences research and enhance their career options in an ecosystem where wellness and inclusion are prioritized, excellence is promoted and rewarded, researchers and instructors are committed and dedicated, and where integrity and quality of the graduate programs are valued.

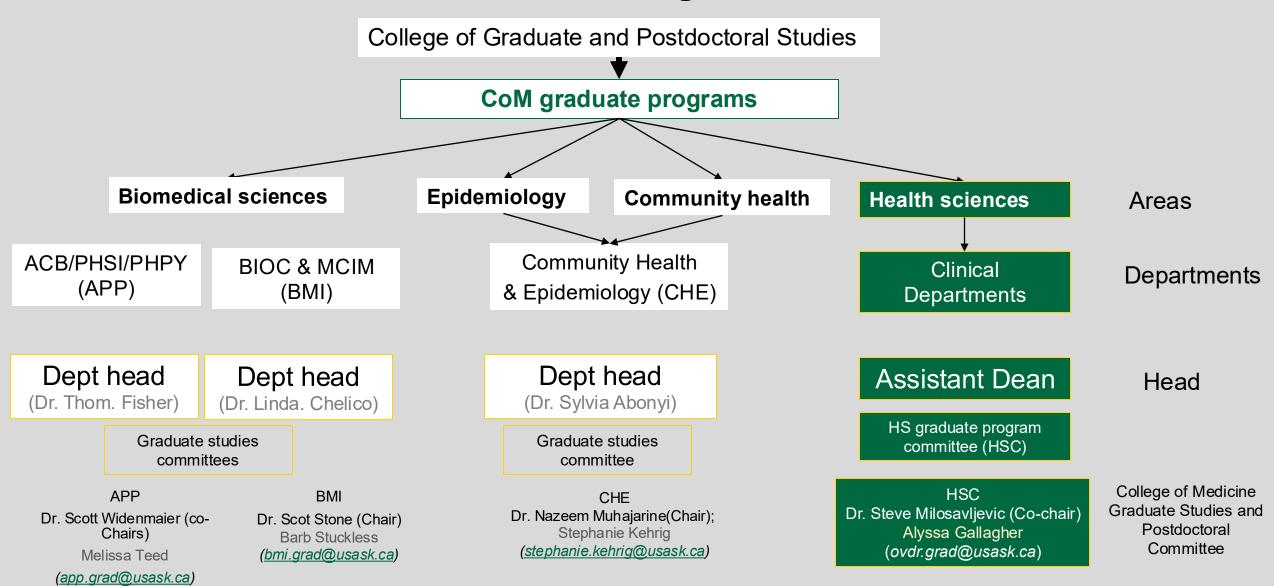
VALUES

- Excellence and innovation
- Honesty and integrity
- Mutual respect and collaboration
- Wellness and social responsibility
- Transparency and fairness
- Scientific accountability
- Leadership accountability
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Inclusion with respect





Graduate Studies Program structure



BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



Vital Statistics



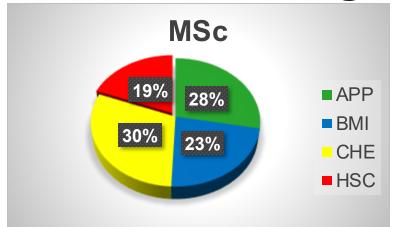
CoM: students/staff/faculty

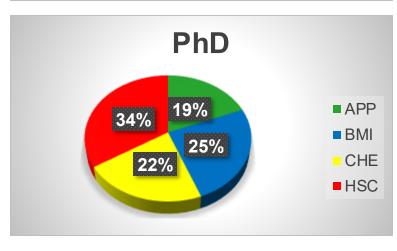
- > 900+ Biomedical Students
- > 263 MSc + PhD Students
- > 2,100+ Learners
- > 400+ Medical Students; 450 Residents
- > 110 Master of Physical Therapy Students
- > 2,000 Faculty; 700+ Employees
- > 5,200+ Alumni in 19 Countries
- > 1,800+ residents trained since 1986





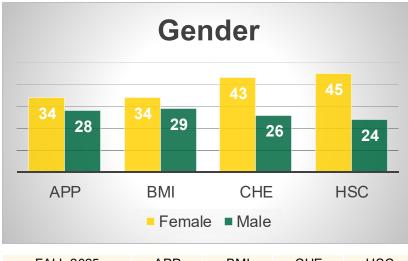
263 registered GS in the CoM in Fall 2025





Program	Total
APP	63
BMI	63
CHE	69
HSC	69
Total	263

2021: 203 2022: 207 2024: 227



FALL 2025	APP	BMI	CHE	HSC
MSc	38	31	41	26
PhD	24	32	28	43
Domestic	35	30	41	52
International	27	33	28	17
Female	34	34	43	45
Male	28	29	26	24
Total # of Students	62	63	69	69



Part 2: HSC graduate students

- Graduate programs Committee
- HSGP
- Scholarships
- Resources





Dr. Kiven Erique Lukong

Assistant Dean Graduate Studies

The Assistant Dean Graduate Studies is responsible for the strategic and academic leadership of learning, teaching and the graduate student experience in the College of Medicine.



Alyssa Gallagher

<u>ovdr.grad@usask.ca</u>

Graduate Programs Coordinator

The Graduate Program Coordinator supports the Assistant Dean Graduate Studies in setting the strategic direction of the graduate programs and developing and facilitating the funding initiatives related to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the College of Medicine.



HSGP: Co-chair roles in ToR



Dr. Erique Lukong (AD, director and co-chair)

- > Admissions
- Scholarship administration
- > SSF and 75th
- > Review and resolve non-academic issues
- Policy review and update
- Manual review and update
- Welcome/Town hall meetings



Dr. Steve Milosavljevic (co-chair, School of Rehabilitation Science)

- Health Sciences 990 Symposiums
- Class build-up
- Chair of PhD defense when necessary (AD as back up)
- > Review and resolve academic issues
- > Policy review and update
- Manual reviews and update



Health Sciences

Graduate Program Committee

- 1. Administration of the Graduate Program
- 2. Assesses applications for admission
- 3. Guides the formation of Research Advisory Committees (RACs).
- 4. Approves any substantial alterations to the program of studies
- 5. Evaluates application for transfer from the M.Sc. to the Ph.D. program.
- 6. Conducts Health Sciences program graduate scholarship competitions
- 7. Advertises and promotes the graduate program.
- 8. Reviews graduate program policies
- 9. Assesses student-supervision relationships
- 10. Terms of Reference available
- 11. Individual roles



Membership Graduate Program Committee

- 1. Committee Chair Assistant Dean
- 2. Co-Chair designated by the Assistant Dean
- 3. Four faculty members
- 4. Two graduate student representatives from the Health Sciences Graduate Program
- 5. Program Coordinator



Program Committee Membership and roles (Term: 3 years)

Member	Department	Start-End dates	Working group
George Katselis	Medicine/CCRAH	Sep 2021-Sep 2025	990 Symposium
Steven Machtaler	Medical Imaging	Sep 2021-Sep 2025	Scholarship
Evyn Peters	Psychiatry	Nov 2023-Nov 2026	Student-supervisor issues
Audrey Zucker-Levin	Rehab Sc		PI financial commitment
Steve Milosavljevic	Rehab Science	Sep 2021-Sep 2025	RAC monitor/progress reports
Erique Lukong (Chair)	BMI	Jul 2022- Jun 2027	All
Jared Price (student)	HSC	Sep 2024-Sep 2027	Student liaison
Rachel Vanneste (student)	HSC	Jan 2025-Jan 2028	Student liaison/funding data
Program coordinator			All



RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)

- > Provides academic and research oversight
- > Supports mentorship and development



Role of the RAC (Health Sciences)

- Determined during the student application process
- Provides oversight and advice to the student
- Ensures program requirements are met
- Provides troubleshooting and feedback on research projects to ensure the student obtains sufficient knowledge in their research area
- Suggest courses to take
- Approve or deny requests to transfer from M.Sc. to Ph.D.
- Conduct the Candidacy Assessment
- Mentorship support for students

Note:

- > The student's supervisor must be from the CoM
- ➤ Must complete the Student-Supervisor Agreement within the first year of the program
- > RAC members should be included in the supervisor's letter of support
- Must complete the financial commitment form that is also signed by the department head



RAC Structure (Health Sciences)

(CGPS: Effective May 1, 2022)

- M.Sc. A minimum of **two committee members**; i) The Supervisor (and Co-Supervisor); ii) at least one additional faculty member
- HSC recommendation: At least **three members** (to mitigate voting ties). Two members only in exceptional circumstances and approved the Assistant Dean.
- Ph.D. A minimum of three committee members; i) the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor count as one; ii) one additional faculty member; iii) one Cognate member from a department external to the student.
- The supervisor may chair the RAC meetings (M.Sc. and PhD).

(See the HSGP manual for other details)





HEALTH SCIENCES GRADUATE STUDIES MANUAL MAY 2025



Adapted from the 2016 Policies and Procedures of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Compiled by Dr. David Schreyer (Last update: May 2025 by Dr. Kiven Erique Lukong and Dr. Stephan Milosavljevic)

May 2025:

TA opportunities (page 6)

Scholarship awards increase (pages 7-8)

Travel awards clarity (page 9)

Professional Development (page 9)

HSC 990 Symposium Series (page 11)

RAC meetings (pages 12-13)

Conflict resolution (page 15)

Candidacy Assessment replaces the Comprehensive Examination (page 19)

Leaves of Absence (page 30)



Updates in the 2025 HSGP Manual

- 1. Teaching Assistant (TA) opportunities introduced
- 2. Increased scholarship amounts (HSGS & CoMGRAD)
- 3. Clarified travel award policies
- 4. Enhanced professional development opportunities
- 5. HSC 990 symposium series expanded (6 per year)
- 6. New Research Advisory Committee (RAC) guidelines
- 7. Conflict resolution process clarified
- 8. Candidacy Assessment replaces Comprehensive Exam
- 9. New leave of absence policies



Teaching Assistant (TA) Opportunities

- Encourages professional development in teaching & communication
- Students may seek TA roles in other departments
- Conditions for TA work:
 - Must be in good academic standing
 - Supervisor and Graduate Chair approval required
 - Offers reported to program coordinator
 - Max: 12 hrs/week (part of CGPS 20 hrs/week cap)
 - Must not interfere with research or milestones



Scholarship Updates (2025)

- ☐ Health Sciences Graduate Scholarship (HSGS):
 - ➤ MSc: \$25,000 (shared with supervisor)
 - PhD: \$30,000 (shared with supervisor)
- ☐ 75th Anniversary Recruitment Scholarship:
 - MSc: \$25,000 (1 year, no supervisor match)
 - PhD: \$30,000 (1 year, no supervisor match)
- ☐ CoMGRAD Awards:
 - MSc: \$25,000 (shared)
 - > PhD: \$30,000 (shared)
- ☐ Travel Award for conferences:
 - Call in May
 - > Granted on a first-come, first-served basis
 - Open until funds for the year are exhausted



HSC 990 Seminar & Symposiums

- □ Students must remain registered in HSC 990 each term
- □ Attendance **mandatory**; absences affect eligibility for scholarships
- □ Presentations:
 - MSc: ≥1 presentation (usually Year 2)
 - PhD: ≥2 presentations (Year 2 proposal & Year 3 results)
- □ 6 symposiums per year (Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar, May, Jul)
 - Assigned dates dates and times in advance (some flexibility)
 - > Dates will depend on:
 - o Time in the program
 - Number of previous presentations
 - Proximity to their thesis defense.



Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Updates

- Initial Mini-RAC within first month (introductions & program of study)
- □ Annual Primary Meeting (May):
 - > 8–10-page progress report + presentation
 - GSR 210 Annual Progress Report required
- □ Secondary Meeting (Nov): mid-year review
- □ Student Wellness Meetings as needed
- □ Failure to meet/report RAC progress may affect funding & supervisor eligibility



New Candidacy Assessment

- □ Replaces Comprehensive Exam (from May 2024 onwards)
- Must be completed:
 - Within 24 months of PhD start
 - Within 36 months for MSc-to-PhD transfers
- □ Format: written and/or oral (grant-style or dissertation-style)
- □ Noted on official transcript
- □ Current comprehensive exam phased out by April 2025



Leaves of Absence

CGPS policy

- □ Leaves categories:
 - 1. Personal or Health Leave
 - 2. Maternity/Adoption and Parental Leave
 - 3. Professional Leave
 - 4. Leave to Pursue an Additional Program of Study
- □ Formal approval by Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies/Graduate Chair required
- During a leave, students are registered under a
- "maintenance of status" placeholder to retain student status
- □ Financial support, such as stipends, scholarships, or assistantships, may be suspended unless otherwise permitted by the funding agency or source.

(See manual for details)



Scholarships

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Stipend and scholarships

- > CoMGRAD
 - > Stipend
 - > HSGS
 - > 75th
- > Tri-council



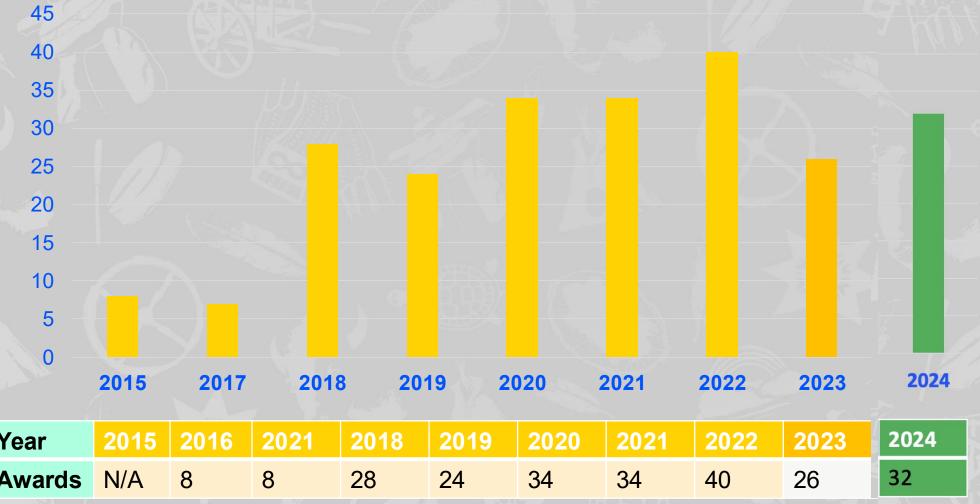
Stipend

- > Master's level: \$18,000/year, first two years of study
- > Doctoral level: \$20,000/year, first four years of study



CoMGRAD Awards - Historical Perspective

Number of Awards



2025 CoMGRAD					
	Applied	Top 25			
MSc	43	14			
PhD	28	11			
Domestic	46	17			
nternational	25	8			
Male	29	9			
Female	42	16			
Transfer	5	4			

Year	2015	2016	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Awards	N/A	8	8	28	24	34	34	40	26	32





HEALTH SCIENCES GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP 2025-26 GUIDELINES

DATE	PROCESS
May 30, 2025	Application due
June 27, 2025	Notification of results for successful awards
July 11, 2025	Signed award letters due
September 1, 2025	Funding begins

• Master's students: \$25,000 stipend/year

• PhD students: \$30,000 stipend/year

Table 1: Eligibility of Master's and PhD student applicants based on time in program. Time in program is calculated from the student's start date within the program.

Time in program as of competition deadline	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five
Master's Student	Not eligible to apply directly [†]	Eligible to apply for a one year award	Not eligible to apply	Not eligible to apply	Not eligible to apply
PhD Student	Not eligible to apply directly [†]	Not eligible to apply directly [†]	Eligible to apply for a one year award	Eligible to apply for a one year award	Not eligible to apply
PhD Transfer Student* (Time refers to time in Ph.D.)	Not eligible to apply directly [†]	Not eligible to apply directly [†]	Eligible to apply for a one year award	Not eligible to apply	Not eligible to apply



75th Anniversary Recruitment Scholarships

- GPA greater than or equal to 80%
- Awarded to both MSc and PhD students in units (\$20,000/year).
- MSc and PhD awards will be topped up to \$25,000/year
 and \$30,000/year
- The HSGS and 75th competition run each spring, following the college-wide CoMGRAD competition.



TRI-AGENCY SCHOLARSHIPS

Master's

- \$27,000 for 12 months
- Canadian citizen or a permanent resident
- Must be either registered in a thesis-based graduate program
- On for 12 months so can't be too far into your degree before you apply
- You cannot already hold the award for which you are applying.
- You are not allowed to apply to multiple agencies in the same year.
- The CGS-M program supports up to 3,000 students annually

PhD

- \$40,000 per year, for up to 36 months
- Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Must be either registered in a thesis-based graduate program
- Must have completed no more than 24 months of full-time study
- 36 months of full-time study if enrolled in a joint program such as MD/PhD, MA/PhD
- Not eligible if you have already received the award
- Applicants cannot apply to multiple agencies in the same year.



INDIGENOUS SCHOLARS AWARDS AND SUPPLEMENTS

- \$27,000 for Indigenous Scholars Award
- \$5,000 for Indigenous Scholars Supplement
- Must self-identify as Indigenous
- Must be eligible to apply for the Canada Graduate
 Scholarships Master's program (CGS-M)
- SSHRC and NSERC applicants only
- CIHR applicants are not eligible
- Applicants apply through the CGS-M application



Other Resources

- > Help
- Health and wellness
- > The Grad Hub
- > CGPS
 - Dr. Marc Usunier, Senior Director, Graduate Student Services
 - Dr. Kenisha Blair, Professional Development Specialist
- CMGSS: Social activities and student engagement



If I have an academic/employment/problem concerns where do I go?

Graduate Students

- Mentor
 - Supervisor
 - RAC (Chair)
 - Program Grad Chair
 - Asst. Dean Grad. Studies (But my door is always opened for you)

- CGPS
- Human Resources
- CMGSS/Graduate Student Assoc. (GSA)
- Any faculty member you trust





USask



Student Wellness Centre

The Student Wellness Centre offers physical and mental health care to USask students and their dependents. Chiropractic, physiotherapy and massage appointments are available to USask students, staff, and faculty.

The Student Wellness Centre will be closed on Thursday June 20, 2024 for Professional Development. During this time, please seek medical attention from a walk-in clinic or in the case of medical crisis, the nearest emergency department.

1-306-966-5768

Fax: 1-306-966-5786

Address

3rd and 4th floor, Place Riel Student Centre

Hours

8:45 am - 4:15 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 am - 4:15 pm Thursday Closed from 12:00 pm - 01:00 pm daily

https://students.usask.ca/health/centres/wellness-centre.php

Offers urgent (and non-urgent) physical and mental health care to USask students, their spouses and children.

Services provided:

- Doctor and nurse appointments
- Mental health assessment, consulting and counselling
- Nutritional counselling
- Sexual health care including contraception counselling and STI prevention, testing and treatment
- Physiotherapy*
- Massage therapy*
- Chiropractic care*
- Acupuncture*



CoM Graduate Student Counsellor Eman Demmans



- Eman is a certified counsellor who works in the Student Wellness Center
- She is our main point of contact and has dedicated hours specifically for our students
- Please email <u>student.wellness@usask.ca</u> and indicate you are a **CoM graduate student** looking to speak with Eman Demmans

Note: Eman Demmans' services are provided only to graduate students in the **CoM**.





Crisis Response

Crisis such as:

Physical or emotional injury or illness, suicidal behaviours, and safety concerns.

Urgent After-hours Assistance

- Saskatoon Police Service 911 (or 9-911 on campus)
- Saskatoon Mobile Crisis (24/7) (306) 933-6200
- Crisis Services Canada (24/7) 1(833) 456-4566
- Royal University Hospital Emergency
 Department (24/7) (306) 655-1000
- <u>Campus Protective Services</u> (24/7) [icone phone] (306) 966-5555

https://medicine.usask.ca/students/graduate-programs/student-wellness.php

Additional Crisis Services

- Saskatoon Sexual Assault Centre (24/7)
 (306) 244-2224
- YWCA Saskatoon Crisis Shelter (24/7 shelter for females) (306) 244-2844
- <u>Saskatoon Interval House</u> (24/7 shelter for females) (306) 244-0185
- Saskatoon Crisis Nursery (24/7) (306) 242-2433
- The Lighthouse (24/7 shelter for males & females) (306) 653-0538
- **Sk.211.ca** directory for urgent and crisis services



https://students.usask.ca/essentials/be-safe.php





Protective Services works closely with the campus community, Saskatoon Police Service and other agencies to maintain a safe campus. We respond to emergencies and provide programs and services. Our officers patrol the campus on foot, bike and in marked patrol vehicles 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

▲ Emergency Assistance

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger:

- Saskatoon Police Service 911 or 9-911 (on campus)
- Campus Protective Services 306-966-5555

Non-Emergency Assistance

Contact Protective Service

Saskatoon Police Service 911 or 9-911 (on campus)
Campus Protective Services 306-966-5555



CGPS

(College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)

★ The Grad Hub →

m Transition → X Arrival →

■ Blueprint -

□ Grad Toolkit **→**

○ Contact US ▼

The Grad HUB

USask's graduate student online resource for understanding & planning your graduate journey.

17%

of USask's student population are graduate students

9%

Self-declared Indigenous students

35%

International graduate students

CGPS website:

https://cgps.usask.ca/onboarding/index.php

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The Grad Hub







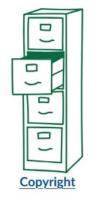
















>CGPS

- Dr. Marc Usunier, Senior Director, Graduate Student Services
- Dr. Kenisha Blair, Professional Development Specialist



College of Medicine Graduate Student Society (CMGSS)

Purpose

- > To represent graduate student interests of the CoM
- ➤ To increase communication between students across the various departments in the College
- ➤ To provide a voice for students to the College, the Graduate Student Association, and the University of Saskatchewan
- ➤ To enhance the graduate experience of students in the College through:
 - ✓ Professional development events
 - ✓ Social and networking events.









A word from the Society Co-President Taylor Dzikowski

CMGSS Executive Committee

2025/2026



CMGSS Co-president Health Science Rep.* Taylor Dzikowski



CMGSS Co-president **VP Academic*** Breanne Bevelander



VP Internal VP Academic* Harmony Grainger



VP Finance Andy Kim



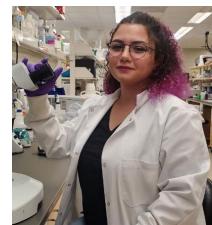
Email: cmgss@usask.ca

Instagram: usaskcmgss

VP Student Affairs BMI Rep. Rylan Bahrey



VP Communications Health Science Rep. Parnaz Soori



EDI Rep. Amalia Babayan



BMI Rep. Griffin Lehnert



APP Rep. **Chris Chivers**

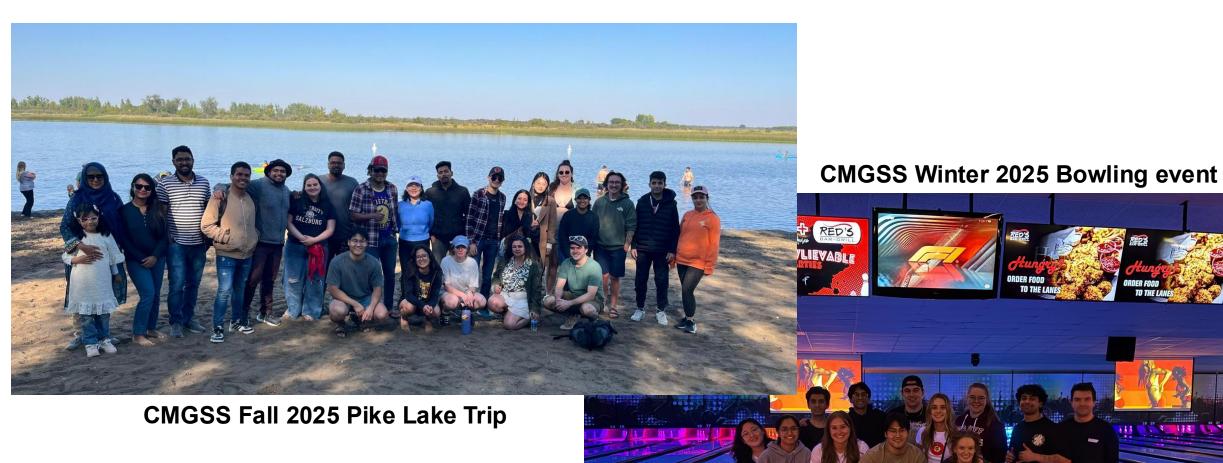


APP Rep. Amber Jurke

CHEP Rep. CHEP Rep. Hetvi Darji Angi Patel

We could use more students on our team!









Thank you!

- > Welcome once again to our New Graduate Students
 - > Health Sciences Graduate Program Committee members
 - > OVDR Team









Renaming and rebranding the HSGP (Coming soon!)



To all students: We are here for you and because of you (KEL)

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS