

Western University  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
**School of Kinesiology**

**KIN 9600**  
**Major Research Paper in Kinesiology**

<b>Instructor:</b> TBD <b>Office:</b> TBD <b>Email:</b> TBD <b>Office Hrs:</b> by appointment  <b>TAs:</b> TBA	
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**Calendar Course Description (including prerequisites/anti-requisites):**

A capstone experience in the course-based Master's program designed to provide students an opportunity to engage in well-researched and sustained scholarly activity demonstrating depth and breadth of knowledge in a content area in kinesiology.

**Format**

The Major Research Paper in Kinesiology relies upon student research and writing rather than individual instruction by a professor.

**Learning Outcomes/Schedule:**

- Develop a research area requiring sustained analyses on a self-identified topic.
- Demonstrate expertise in the relevant kinesiology discipline for which a student is engaged.
- Demonstrate expertise with relevant scholarly resources.
- Demonstrate independent and critical thinking and effective and efficient writing skills.

**Evaluation, Format and Style:**

A passing grade ( $\geq 70\%$ ) requires that the student demonstrate breadth and depth knowledge in a content area in kinesiology. In particular, the Major Research Paper will be graded based on:

- Proposal (10%) – see details below
- Introduction (25%) – Guideline of 5 – 10 pages
  - General topic
  - Research question
  - Methodology (where appropriate)
  - Literature review
- Argument or Development of Research Question or Research Topic (40%) (i.e., theory development or project proposal) – Guideline of 10 – 15 pages
- Conclusions (25%) – Guideline of 2 – 5 pages
- References – Guideline of 2 – 5 pages

The Major Research Paper will be written in Times New Roman font (12-point), double-spaced, single-sided with standard margins (i.e., 2.54 cm) and will employ a referencing format specific to the discipline area (e.g., APA for Master's students in the Psychological Basis of Kinesiology). The specific topic and referencing format will be selected in consultation with the faculty member serving as the Advisor for the Major Research Paper (see details below).

**Finding an Advisor:**

The Major Research Paper Advisor will be a faculty member with School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS) affiliation in the School of Kinesiology. The Advisor will play an important role and interact with the student throughout the duration of their Major Research Paper. The student is required to contact a prospective Advisor and discuss the possibility that they are available to serve in this capacity. Students are required to secure an Advisor the semester before they begin their Major Research Paper (see **Proposal** section below).

In identifying an Advisor, students are encouraged to review professor's areas of expertise and publications via the School of Kinesiology website (<https://www.uwo.ca/fhs/kin/grad/index.html>) and/or via a database such as PubMed or Google Scholar.

#### **The Role of the Advisor:**

- To provide direction and expertise in the proposed area of inquiry.
- To provide critical feedback throughout project development.
- To evaluate the work when submitted.

The Major Research Paper will be evaluated based on the average grade submitted by the Advisor and another kinesiology faculty member (i.e., secondary evaluator) in the content area. If there is a significant difference in the two grades resulting in an average grade less than 70%, then the two faculty members will meet (not longer than 2 weeks after the Major Research Paper has been graded) to discuss the Major Research Paper and attempt to reconcile differences and make revisions to the grades such that there is more consistency (though not necessarily identical). The passing grade for the Major Research Paper is 70%, consistent with the SGPS regulations for a pass. If the Major Research Paper does not meet the passing grade, then it must be revised, re-submitted, and regraded. Normally the same faculty members will grade the revised paper.

#### **Proposal:**

Prior to undertaking the formal Major Research Paper, students are required to submit to their Advisor a 3-4 page (see style guidelines above) proposal. As indicated above, the proposal will contribute 10% to the Major Research Paper final grade. The proposal should describe your ideas for the Major Research Paper; that is, how you propose to investigate your Major Research Paper idea, and the potential relevance and significance of this work to your discipline in the field of kinesiology. The role of the proposal is to ensure that you have a defined and feasible topic that can be completed within the timeline of the Course-Based Master's degree, and most importantly, explains that the topic is a worthy scholarly pursuit. (Note: only the Advisor will grade the proposal component).

#### **The Major Research Paper Timeline:**

The completed Major Research Paper and [Submission and Notice of Presentation form](#) must be uploaded to the Kinesiology 9600 Major Research Paper [OWL site](#) by the [last day of class in the semester](#) in which the student is enrolled in the Major Research Paper course. Once the paper has been uploaded to OWL, the graduate program will review the document and if approved circulate the document to the two evaluators indicated on the form. Only the version of the paper uploaded to OWL will be used for evaluation. If students wish to receive feedback on their Major Research Paper prior to its submission for evaluation, then it is recommended that a version be sent to the Advisor 4-5 weeks before the last class of the semester. This time is required for the Advisor to read and comment on a student's manuscript and gives the student sufficient time to integrate revisions. As the Major Research Paper is the capstone requirement for the Course-Based Master's Program it is to be completed in the last semester of the student's degree program.

It is expected that the student will work with their Advisor throughout the duration of the project to ensure that the level of scholarship is consistent with expectations. Meetings should be scheduled regularly to determine progress, assess the level of understanding of the topic area, address questions, offer advice and provide feedback on written material. Notably, it is contingent upon the student to schedule and keep their Advisor updated on the Major Research Paper progress. Upon satisfactory completion of the Major Research Paper as determined by the student in consultation with the Advisor, the student submits the Major Research Paper to the Kinesiology Graduate

Programme office along with the “Ready to Submit” form for distribution to the advisor and one other faculty member for formal evaluation. The “Ready to Submit” form indicates whether the Major Research Paper is being submitted either “with” or “without” the approval of the Advisor. In the event that the Advisor is not supportive of a formal submission, the student has the right to submit the Major Research Paper without this approval being given.

### **Major Research Paper Presentation:**

As part of the course-based degree requirements, the student must deliver a public presentation of their Major Research Paper to showcase their project, which will be followed by an informal question period. Unlike a thesis defense, the questions will not be limited to the Advisor and secondary evaluator; rather, questions are open to all in attendance. The delivery of the public presentation represents the completion of all course-based Master’s degree requirements and therefore is not subject to additional revisions being required by the student. The presentation must be in the last term of the student’s degree, but may occur before or after the Major Research Paper is completed and submitted. A copy of the final written paper must be filed with the Kinesiology Graduate Program. The student completes their program when the Major Research Paper has been graded a pass, and has been presented to the Kinesiology (and University) community.

In the event a public presentation is not possible (e.g., to account for social distancing requirements during the COVID pandemic), the graduate office will discuss with students an alternate means for a final presentation (i.e., a recorded Zoom presentation).

## **Course/University Policies**

### **1. Academic offences:**

They are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

A) Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>

### **2. Health and Wellness:**

Information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.health.uwo.ca/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **3. Support Services**

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

- *Student Development Centre* -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>
- *Student Health & Wellness* -- <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>
- *Registrar’s Office* -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
- *Ombudsperson Office* -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

### **4. Student Code of Conduct**

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a

breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>