

2026 Statistical & Actuarial Sciences (DSAS) Graduate Fall Orientation

SEPTEMBER 8th

Western Science Centre 240 (WSC 240)

This event is mandatory for new students to attend.

9:00 am Sign-in and Welcome Package & Light Snacks and Coffee

JOINT MATHEMATICS & DSAS SESSION

9:45 am Welcome – **Prof. Nicole Lemire** (Math Grad Chair) & **Prof. Simon Bonner** (DSAS Grad Chair)

9:55 am Society of Graduate Students (SOGS)

10:15 am GTA (PSAC610)

10:30 am Western Libraries – **Robert Glushko**

10:45 am Western International – **Fabiana Tepedino**

11:00 am Own Your Future Program – **Jenny Richmond-Bravo**

11:15 am **BREAK**

DSAS SESSIONS

11:25 am Welcome speech – **Prof. Kristina Stankova** (Chair) & Meet the Faculty

11:40 am New Grad Students and Teaching Assistants Orientation – **Prof. Simon Bonner** (Graduate Chair)

12:20 pm Q&A

12:30 pm **WELCOME LUNCH**

1:30-4:30 pm CTL TA Orientation with Light Snacks & Coffee

Welcome to the Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences at Western University.

The following information will help you navigate your time in the Program. If you have questions not answered at today's session or on the school's website, please feel free to contact your supervisor, or Thao Dang, the Program Assistant (pdang9@uwo.ca).

► **Course Enrollment and OWL:** Most of you will have registered for your courses by now. Coursework will be shared with you through Western's online instruction portal "OWL". From Western's main page, click "Popular Links" in the top right corner, choose "OWL"; once you're enrolled in your classes, they will appear in your OWL account.

► **Punctuality and Attendance:** As a graduate student you belong to a vibrant community of scholars which works and learns together; unless your instructor states otherwise, you are expected to attend each class and arrive on time.

► **Progression Requirements Reminder:** Progress through graduate programs at Western require the maintenance of a minimum cumulative average of 70%, with no course mark below 60%. Additional program requirements can be found at: <https://www.uwo.ca/stats/graduate/phd-program.html> and <https://www.uwo.ca/stats/graduate/masters-program/index.html>. Failure to meet program requirements can result in withdrawal. This isn't included to generate anxiety, simply as a reminder to work hard and seek help early if you run into a hurdle.

► **Printer and Computer Lab:** The student printer and computer lab are in WSC 256. You'll be provided with print credit of \$30 per term (600 black-and-white pages).

► **Your Office and Student Kitchen/Lounge:**

- You have been assigned a desk in a shared office, please be considerate of your officemates and remember that this is a place for quiet work. Maintain security by keeping your office door locked at all times.
- Students in Statistical and Actuarial Sciences have a lounge and kitchen in WSC 277 equipped with a coffee machine, refrigerator and microwave. Please keep the kitchen clean after use and frequently remove old food from the refrigerator.
- Teaching Assistants can use WSC 250 for holding office hours by booking with Thao Dang, then requesting a key at: https://uwo.ca/fm/client_services/keys.html



► Western Science commit to green initiatives. You'll find garbage and recycling pails in your office and kitchens, as well as labelled bins in the halls for paper, containers and waste. There is a map on the first floor of WSC showing batteries and other special waste disposal locations.

► **Program Administrative Office:**

Thao Dang (pdang9@uwo.ca)
Western Science Centre 262



Graduate 2026-27 Calendar

The following list provides important program dates. A complete Graduate Calendar of Events can be found at:
https://grad.uwo.ca/academics/calendar_of_events.html

You are expected to be available from September 1 until the end of the exam period in the Fall and Winter semesters and as determined by your supervisor in the Summer semester.

Fall 2026

September 1

First day of fall semester

September 7

Official holiday (Labour Day)

September 8

Orientation (attendance required)

Due date for fall term tuition (first installment)

September 9

First day of classes

September 17

Undergraduate courses add/drop deadline

September 30

Graduate courses add/drop deadline

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no classes)

October 13

Due date for 2nd Installment Fall term tuition
(for those paying in two installments)

October 10 – October 18

Fall Reading Week (no classes)

December 9

Last day of classes

December 11-22*

Fall exam period

Winter 2027

January 1

First day of winter semester

January 4

First day of classes

January 8

Due date for winter term tuition (first installment)

January 12

Undergraduate courses add/drop deadline

January 29

Graduate courses add/drop deadline

February 12

Due date for 2nd Installment Winter term tuition
(for those paying in two installments)

February 13-21

Spring Reading Week (no classes)

April 9

Last day of classes

April 12-30*

Winter exam period

*Exams cancelled due to bad weather or other phenomena can be rescheduled up until the last day of the official exam period.

The Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences
Course Selection Guideline - 2026-2027 Academic Year
(Submit all completed forms to Thao - pdang9@uwo.ca)

Action Items:

- Please check your **program requirements** on our website under the specific program title at <https://www.uwo.ca/stats/graduate/index.html>.
- Complete the **Course Enrollment Survey** that you receive via email for **both the Fall and Winter Terms** and submit **related forms (if applicable)** to pdang9@uwo.ca by **Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026**.
- **You must consult with your supervisor(s) when choosing your courses.** The Grad Chair (Dr. Simon Bonner) will review all course enrollment forms for approval.
- Once you have filled out the survey, submitted the applicable forms, and received your **supervisor's approval**, you must proceed to **self-enroll** in your courses through your Student Centre (<http://student.uwo.ca>). You do NOT need to wait for the Grad Chair's approval to enroll in courses. If there are any concerns, we will contact you.
- You should be able to **self-enroll** in **Fall term courses** starting **August 5, 2026** if you have met all term activation requirements. International students will need to arrive in Canada and email SGPS (Adrian Aguirre Jurado - aaguirr@uwo.ca) a copy of the official study permit document issued upon arrival in Canada (not their visa or their Letter of Invitation) to be term-activated.
 - **Note:** you will not be able to enroll in Winter courses until December.
- **You must enroll yourself** or you won't appear on the OWL site: <https://wts.uwo.ca/owl/>. The OWL site is where your courses will post grades, materials, notifications, etc.
- **Resubmit** the **Course Enrollment Survey** for any changes.

Courses Outside the Department: (please submit forms to pdang9@uwo.ca)

- If you are required to, or would like to take a course outside your program (Graduate or Undergraduate), please complete the appropriate form (link below)
 - <https://grad.uwo.ca/academics/courses/index.html>
 - **Note:** You will be charged a course fee if the course is not directly required for your Program.
- The Ontario Visiting Graduate Student (OVGS) Program:
https://grad.uwo.ca/doc/academic_services/visiting_exchange/Ovgs%20Form%202016.pdf

Audit a course:

- If you are taking a course as an audit, please fill out the **Course Audit Form** and **select it as "Audit"** in the **Course Enrollment Survey** http://grad.uwo.ca/doc/academic_services/course/course_audit_form.pdf

Key Dates:

Fall term

- **September 17** – Last day to add an Undergraduate course.
- **September 17** – Last day to drop an Undergraduate course without having it appear on your transcript.
 - Undergraduate courses withdrawals [**September 18, November 30**] will have WDN on their transcript.
 - Undergraduate courses withdrawals from **December 1** will receive an F on their transcript.
- **September 30** – Last day to Add/Audit a Graduate course.
- **September 30** – Last day to drop a Graduate course without having it appear on your transcript.
 - Graduate courses withdrawals [**October 1, October 30**] will have WDN on their transcript.
 - Graduate courses withdrawals from **October 31** will receive an F on their transcript.

Winter term

- **January 12** – Last day to add an Undergraduate course.
- **January 12** – Last day to drop an Undergraduate course without having it appear on your transcript.
 - Undergraduate courses withdrawals [**January 13, March 30**] will have WDN on their transcript.
 - Undergraduate courses withdrawals from **March 31** will receive an F on their transcript.
- **January 29** – Last day to Add/Audit a Graduate course.
- **January 29** – Last day to drop a Graduate course without having it appear on your transcript.
 - Graduate courses withdrawals [**January 30, February 28**] will have WDN on their transcript.
 - Graduate courses withdrawals from **March 1** will receive an F on their transcript.

Dear Graduate Student,

The graduate enrollment period for the 2026 Fall term begins August 5, 2026. You will be assigned a random appointment time to enroll in courses based on your program, and will find the date and time by signing into Student Center.

Your course registration at The University of Western Ontario will be done online through the Student Center (<http://student.uwo.ca>).

The instructions below outline how to access your enrollment appointment and how to register in courses.

If you are unsure which courses you should be registering in, you can find the information on your program's website. You can access these sites through the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' website <https://grad.uwo.ca/admissions/programs/index.cfm>

Before you register in courses:

You must be enrolled in the term you're choosing your course in.

You must have an active Western email account.

You must find your course enrollment appointment date and time.

Activate UWO Email Account

Obtain your Western username and password from the Western Technology Services (WTS) website at https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/register_in_courses/index.html

You will need your Western student ID number and PIN.

Finding your Course Enrollment Appointment Date

Log in to student.uwo.ca.

On the right you will see 'Enrollment Dates'.

Select 'Details' to view the specific start time of your appointment.

You will not be able to register for courses prior to this time.

Enrolling in Courses

To assist you in course registration there is a step-by-step guide as well as links to more detailed instructions at https://registrar.uwo.ca/resources/how_do_i.html Select > Enroll in a Class

The instructions are geared toward undergraduate students but the process is the same.

You will be restricted to the courses within your program with the exception of those courses required for your degree.

If you are required to or would like to take a course outside your program or require an undergraduate course you must contact your Graduate Program Assistant and complete the appropriate form.

Fall 2026 Grad

	Course #	Course name	Room	Instructor	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	ACTURSCI 9429	Life Contingencies II	WSC 240	Xiaoming Liu	10:30-11:30		10:30-11:30		10:30-11:30
2	ACTURSCI 9004	Survival Analysis	WSC 240	Wenqing He	2:30-3:30		2:30-3:30		2:30-3:30
3	ACTURSCI 9824	Loss Models II	WSC 240	Shu Li		10:30-11:30		10:30-12:30	
4	ACTURSCI 9860	Special Topics in Actuarial Science — Business Skills	UCC 66	Ashley McAlpine		11:30-2:30			
5	FINMOD 9522	Financial Markets and Quantitative Finance with Excel	WSC 248	Amin Hassan Zadeh				5:30-8:30 pm	
6	FINMOD 9578	Mathematics of Financial Options	WSC 248	Amin Hassan Zadeh			4:30-7:30 pm		
7	FINMOD 9587	Financial Risk Management	UCC 54A	Irina Shchemelinina		12:30-2:00	1:30-3:00		
8	FINMOD 9590	Stochastic Processes with Applications in Finance and Actuarial Science	WSC 248	Xiaoming Liu			11:30-12:30	9:30-11:30	
9	STATS 9859	Regression	SSC 2032 Tut: NCB 117	Hyukjun (Jay) Gweon	Tut: 4:30-5:30			12:30-2:30	1:30-2:30
10	STATS 9864	Advanced Statistical Computing	WSC 256	Simon Bonner	10:30-11:30		10:30-11:30		10:30-11:30
11	STATS 9657	Advanced Probability	WSC 248	Hao Yu	12:30-1:30		12:30-1:30		12:30-1:30

Winter 2027 Grad

	Course #	Course name	Room		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	ACTURSCI 9424	Short term Actuarial Math I/ Loss Models I	WSC 240	Shu Li	9:30-10:30		9:30-10:30		9:30-10:30
2	ACTURSCI 9007	Advanced Multistate Models/ Life Contingencies III	WSC 240	Shu Li	2:30-3:30		2:30-3:30		2:30-3:30
3	ACTURSCI 9426	Actuarial Practice I	WSC 240	TBD	7:00-10:00pm				
4	ACTURSCI 9005	Advanced Risk Theory	WSC 256	Jiandong Ren			11:30-12:30		10:30-12:30
5	DATASCI 9000	Introduction to Machine Learning	WSC 55 Lab: TC 141	Guowen Huang		4:30-6:30		Lab: 4:30-6:30	
6	FINMOD 9521	Financial Modelling II/ Advanced Financial Modelling	NCB 295	Ankush Agarwal		11:30-12:30		11:30-1:30	
7	FINMOD 9528	Banking Analytics	WSC 248	Cristian Bravo Roman	11:30-2:30				
8	FINMOD 9593	Monte Carlo Methods and Financial Applications	WSC 248	Ankush Agarwal	2:30-3:30		1:30-3:30		
9	STATS 9544	Data Analytics Consulting	TC 309	Camila de Souza	3:30-5:30		3:30-4:30		
10	STATS 9850	Advanced Data Analysis	VAC 100	TBD	12:30-1:30		12:30-1:30		12:30-1:30
11	STATS 9861	Time Series	WSC 240	Hao Yu		12:30-2:30		1:30-2:30	
12	STATS 9030	Statistical Inference	WSC 248	Grace Yi		10:00-11:30		10:00-11:30	
13	STATS 9055	Generalized Linear Models (for DSAS students)	WSC 248	Guowen Huang	10:00-11:30				10:00-11:30

Western University: Building Names & Acronyms

Building Name	Code
3M Centre	3M
Academic Pavilion	AP
Advanced Facility for Avian Research	AFAR
Alexander Charles Spencer Engineering Building	SEB
Allyn & Betty Taylor Library	TL
Alumni Hall	AH
Alumni House Residence	AHR
Amit Chakma Engineering Building	ACEB
Arthur & Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building	HSB
Arts & Humanities Building	AHB
Ausable Hall Residence	AUHR
Bayfield Hall Residence	BAHR
Beaver Hall Residence	BHR
Beryl Ivey Library	BIL
Biological & Geological Greenhouses	BGG
Biological & Geological Sciences Building	B&GS
Bio-Medical Research Facility	BRF
Biotron	BIO
Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel	BLWT
Centre to Child & Youth Development Clinic (BMO)	CYDC
Chemistry Building	CHB
Clare Hall Residence & Mercato	CHR
Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion	CMLP
Collip Medical Research Building	CB
D.B. Weldon Library	WL
Delaware Hall Residence	DHR
Dental Sciences Building	DSB
Dr. Don Rix Clinical Skills Learning Building	CSB
Elborn College	EC
Elgin Hall Residence	ELHR
Elginfield Observatory	EO
Environmental Science Western Field Station	ESW
Essex Hall Residence	EHR
FIMS & Nursing Building	FNB
Fraunhofer Project Centre for Composites Research	FPC
Gibbons Lodge	GL
Graphic Services Building	GSB
Health Sciences Addition	HSA
Institute For Chemicals & Fuels from Alternative Resources	ICFAR
Insurance Research Lab For Better Homes	IRL
International & Graduate Affairs Building	IGAB
Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre	ISLC
John George Althouse Faculty of Education Building	FEB
John Labatt Visual Arts Centre	VAC
Josephine Spencer Niblett Faculty of Law Building	LB
Kresge Building	KB
Lambton Hall Residence	LAHR
Laurene O. Paterson (Western Science Centre)	WSC
Lawson Hall	LWH
Light Detection & Ranging Research Facility	LIDAR
London Hall Residence	LOHR
Material Sciences Addition	MSA
McIntosh Gallery	MG
Medical Sciences Building	MSB
Medway Hall Residence	MHR
Middlesex College	MC
Molecular Biology Laboratory	MBL
Mother St James Memorial Building	MSJ
Museum of Ontario Archaeology	MOA
Music Building	MB

Natural Sciences Centre	NSC
North Campus Building	NCB
Ontario Hall Residence	OHR
Perth Hall Residence	PHR
Photoperiod Laboratory	PPL
Physics & Astronomy Building	PAB
Platts Lane Estates	PLE
Power Plant	PP
Richard Ivey Building	IVEY
Robarts Research Institute	RRI
Ronald D. Schmeichel Entrepreneurship and Innovation Building	SEI
Saugeen-Maitland Hall Residence	SMHR
Social Science Centre	SSC
Somerville House	SH
Staging Building	STAB
Stevenson Hall	STVH
Support Services Building	SSB
Sydenham Hall Residence	SYHR
Talbot College	TC
Thames Hall	TH
The Collider (Formerly Accelerator)	COL
The Cronyn Observatory	CO
The Harold W. Siebens Centre	SDRI
Siebens-Drake Medical Research Institute	
Thompson Engineering Building	TEB
Thompson Recreation & Athletic Centre	TRAC
University College	UC
University Community Centre	UCC
University YMCA Child Care	UYCC
Ursuline Hall	UH
Wampum Learning Lodge	WLL
West Valley Building	WVB
Western Alumni Stadium	WAS
Western Centre for Public Health & Family Medicine	PHFM
Western Continuing Studies	WCS
Western Interdisciplinary Research Building	WIRB
Western Student Recreation Centre	WSRC
Western Student Services Building	WSSB
Western Tennis Club	WTC
Westminster Hall	WH
Wind Engineering, Energy & Environment	WINDEEE

Additional Related Structures	Code
Books Plus	BP
Convergence Centre	CC
East Electrical Sub-Station	EESS
Mogensen Building	MOG
National Research Council Integrated Materials Technology Institute	IMTI
North Electrical Sub-Station	NESS
South Electrical Sub-Station	SESS
Stiller Centre	SC
West Electrical Sub-Station	WESS
Windermere Manor Conference Centre	WMCC
Windermere Manor Hotel	WMH

Last updated : May 1, 2024

[Quick Link : Western University Interactive Map](#)

Western Student Experience

A Brief on “Supporting Safer Professional Practice”

An Overview of Mandatory Incoming Graduate Student Training

What Is It?

- Supporting Safer Professional Practice (SSPP) is live-facilitated two-hour Zoom training for graduate students.
- SSPP differs intentionally from the undergraduate training, *Mustangs for Consent*. While first-year training focuses primarily on consent and students’ personal sex lives, SSPP centers on how harm shows up in professional and public spaces.
- Piloted for two years with over 1,000 graduate students in over 15 departments, this training focuses on building the skills needed to decrease harm in graduate students’ roles as students, teaching assistants, research assistants, lab work and future researchers.
- Learning outcomes are focused on power use, boundary setting, intervention strategies, and managing difficult behaviours from a place of empathy.
- Reflections and activities are the core structure of the training; all participants will be required to have their cameras on.
- Approved by Senate in March 2026, all incoming graduate students will be required to take this training starting September 2026.

The Plan:

- The letter of admission will be the first communication to share that SSPP is a requirement. Students will be auto-enrolled into a Brightspace course where they will be able to choose from over 50 timeslots.
- Ongoing communication throughout the term via Brightspace will ensure that students are aware of the deadline and need to complete the training by end of first term.
- This process will be repeated for new entry students in January and May.
- Students who do not complete the required training will be unable to register for their second term. This process will be navigated by SGPS and Student Experience.
- Recognizing some graduate students may not have foundational knowledge, an optional precursory module, *Consent 2.0*, will be offered that will include foundational definitions of Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV), consent and the policy landscape, emphasizing how these concepts can show up in a students’ professional role.
- Resources will be offered on the Brightspace page, as well as at the beginning and end of the training itself. Survivors who feel they cannot participate in the training may contact Western’s GBSV Case Managers to ensure they are not penalized.

Why Mandatory Training for Grad Students?

- Graduate students hold significant influence and power within the university community in their roles as researchers, advanced learners, in tutorials and labs. Despite this, they were not being provided with the training or professional development to navigate GBSV, healthy power use, trauma and boundary setting within professional and academic contexts. Graduate students often occupy complex and shifting positionalities, simultaneously navigating power dynamics as students in supervisory relationships and as instructors or mentors to students of their own, highlighting the need for training specifically designed for their roles.
- There has been tremendous success with the incoming undergraduate student mandatory training, both in skill acquisition and value shift, as well as culture setting on campus.
- This is in alignment with recommendations from both the internal and independent review reports following the September 2021 events. Both reports recommend that Western implement mandatory graduate student training (both reports are available online here: [GBSV Reports](#)).
 - The independent review report recommends mandatory graduate student training as part of a broader recommendation to make training mandatory for all students (Recommendation #3, on page 24 of the independent review report).
 - The internal review report recommends that all staff, including GTAs, GRAs, and GFAs, receive tailored training modules "*ensuring that these student mentors understand GBSV, EDI, and other aspects of student safety and well-being*" (Recommendation 1.2, starting on page 13 of the internal review report).

Quick Snapshot of Content

Divided into four sections and utilizing small group and self-reflection exercises, SSPP covers the following learning outcomes:

1. Using Power for Good
 - a. Explain and reflect on your use of power over/under/with others and how to be accountable to that positional power.
 - b. Recognize the power you hold in relationships with students and clients, and how this power can impact campus culture.
2. Setting Boundaries
 - a. Identify how to set and maintain boundaries with students and staff you may have power over/under.
 - b. Practice effective boundary-setting strategies related to your unique role on campus.
3. Understanding Trauma and Triggers
 - a. Differentiate between activating vs triggering behaviours and identify ways to implement practices and tools to support safer professional engagement.
 - b. Recognize how to integrate trauma-informed approaches into your unique role on campus.
4. Tools for De-escalation
 - a. Develop practical skills to navigate difficult interactions with students/clients.
 - b. Practice effective de-escalation strategies related to your professional role.

Supporting Research

- Research shows that graduate students often report feeling disconnected, isolated, and excluded from the larger campus culture (McMahon, S., et al. 2021; Bloom, B. E., et al. 2021).
- Graduate students have been shown to be at an elevated risk of experiencing burn-out, contrapower harassment, bullying, labour exploitation, and sexual harassment and gender-based violence (Grady et al., 2014; Musgrove et al. 2021; Raaper 2017; Rosenthal et al. 2016; Lorenz et al. 2019).
- The responsibility of coping with these stressors cannot be pushed onto the individual graduate student, and must be addressed through a collaborative and community-based effort to address the potential harm of graduate programs (Li et al. 2021; Peng et al. 2024).
- Research recently undertaken with Western graduate students demonstrates the need for specific and additional training and professionalization, particularly around topics related to de-escalation of tense situations, and navigating power dynamics (Egan 2025).

Supporting Safer Professional Practice (SSPP) has been designed intentionally to address and fill the gaps of graduate students' experiences and provide them with specific practical skills such as de-escalation in person and via email; grounding and centering techniques for emotional regulation and coping; communicating and setting professional and personal boundaries; and specific and localized information about resources and reporting processes.

Bibliography

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Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) Prevention Education: Supporting Safer Professional Practice (SSPP)

Information Session Overview | July 9, 2026

Key Messages for Graduate Program Administrators

- Students will receive registration information directly through Brightspace.
- Completion, not registration, is what satisfies this mandatory training requirement.
- Completion status is managed centrally by SGPS.
- The requirement applies to all incoming graduate students, including online students, starting in September 2026 or after.
- Students entering a second graduate degree at Western will complete the training again for that new program.
- Questions about participation challenges or accommodations should be directed to the appropriate support resources (gbsv.edu@uwo.ca).

Message Students Receive Via Brightspace

Please copy/paste this message for email, in orientation materials, or as part of your program-based on-boarding information wherever you deem appropriate.

As a student starting in a new graduate program this term, you are required to complete Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) Prevention Education: Supporting Safer Professional Practice (SSPP).

GBSV Prevention Education training is a skills-based, small group, live facilitated two-hour Zoom training session focused on the skills graduate students need to decrease harm in their roles as students, teaching assistants, research assistants, lab work and future researchers.

This training is a required non-course milestone in every graduate program at the University. Failure to complete the module will prevent you from progressing beyond the first term of your degree.

Learn more and save your spot: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/prevention/grad-training.html>.

It is highly recommended that you complete this requirement as early as possible before there are other demands on your time.

If you have any questions, please email gbsv.edu@uwo.ca.

Thank you and good luck with your first term.

Administration and Milestone Tracking

- SGPS will manage the milestone process centrally.
- SGPS will add the milestone as “Not Completed” to all new graduate admits each term.
- Student Experience will provide completion reports to SGPS on an ongoing basis.
- SGPS will update student records once completion is confirmed.
- Graduate programs are not responsible for recording or updating completion status, but are encouraged to monitor and send reminders as necessary

Once the milestone is marked complete, it will also appear as completed in Pathfinder.

Graduate Program Administrators can check completion status of their students using this query: WSA_GR_PA_MILESTONE_CHECK

A milestone will not appear as complete simply because a student has registered for a future session; completion is only recorded after the student has attended (confirmed by Student Experience) and SGPS has updated the record.

Student Registration Process

Student Experience will communicate registration instructions to all incoming graduate students every term through Brightspace.

The Brightspace page will be used to:

- communicate training requirements
- provide session registration information
- share reminders and deadlines
- direct students to support resources

Graduate Program Administrators are encouraged to reinforce this requirement during orientation activities and student onboarding.

Session Delivery Information

- The training is delivered as a live, two-hour synchronous facilitated Zoom session.
- Sessions are capped at approximately 40 participants.
- Sessions are delivered in gender-integrated groups.
- Facilitators are graduates of graduate programs and have backgrounds in gender studies or gender-based violence prevention.
- Scenarios were developed so the training reflects a variety of graduate student experiences and not exclusively TA-related situations.
- Gender-integrated delivery was selected because this training focuses on professional practice rather than students' personal experiences.

Additional training sessions will be offered after October for students who miss initial registration opportunities. These sessions will not be broadly advertised as Student Experience aims to have all students complete by the end of October.

Participation Expectations

- The training is designed as a participatory learning experience.
- Cameras are expected to remain on throughout the session.
- Students whose cameras remain off may be removed and asked to attend another session.
- Students are not required to disclose personal experiences.
- Participation is built into the learning activities but is not graded.
- Attendance is confirmed at the conclusion of the session and reported to SGPS.
- Facilitators may remove participants whose behaviour disrupts the learning environment.

Accommodations and Support

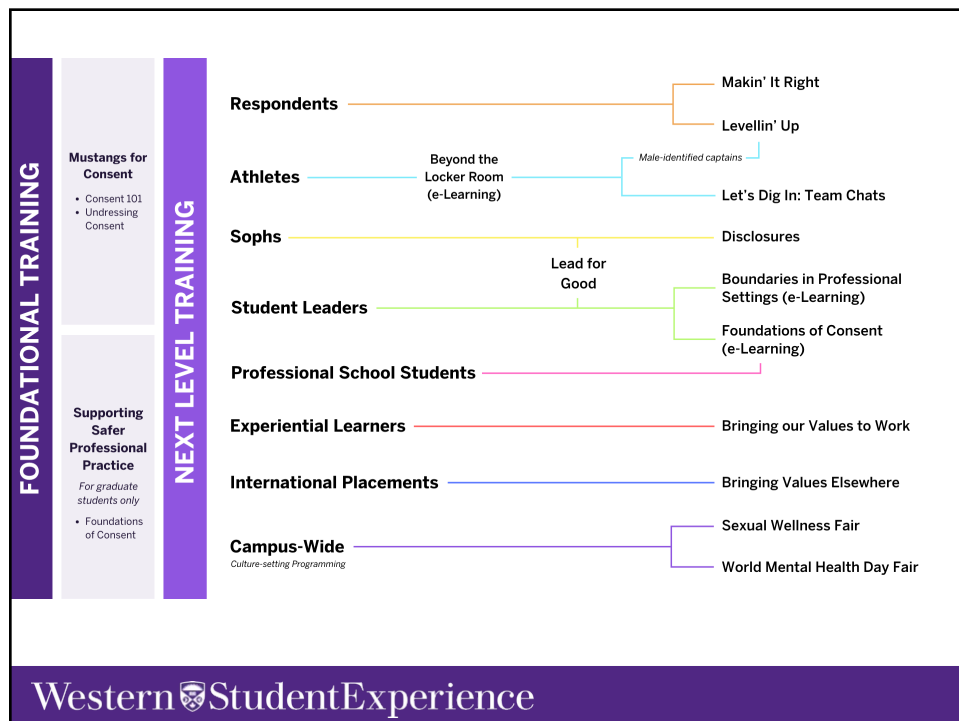
- Students who anticipate challenges participating in the training are encouraged to connect with available supports.
- Accommodation requests will be addressed individually through existing support processes rather than through a blanket opt-out approach.
- This mandatory *Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) Prevention Education: Supporting Safer Professional Practice (SSPP)* should not be confused or conflated with the Human Resources employee training module *Supporting Disclosure of Gender-Based and Sexual Violence at Western*, which is also available in Brightspace.

Other Considerations

- The mandatory training requirement applies to students beginning a new graduate program in September 2026 or later.
- Students who began their current graduate program before September 2026 are not required to complete the training.
- Students entering a second graduate degree are expected to complete the training again at the start of that new program, similar to the Academic Integrity module.
- The requirement applies to all incoming graduate students, in every program, including those in online programs.
- Training for all three graduate program intake terms (September 1, January 1, May 1) will be offered in proportion to enrolment; approximately 50 sessions are planned for September/October, and approximately 10 sessions are currently planned for incoming students in January.



1



2

Supporting Safer Professional Practice (SSPP)

What is it?

- Two-hour synchronous Zoom training
- Gender-integrated
- Meets recommendations from both the internal and independent review reports following the September 2021 events
- Focused on skills needed to decrease harm in their roles as students, TAs, RAs, and future researchers

It is not a training focused on their personal sex lives but rather on how harm shows up in professional and public spaces.

Western  StudentExperience

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The Plan

Leverage 2 years of content piloting & evaluation of over 1,000 graduate students

SGPS/SE add students to Brightspace page in July/Aug

Students self-register for a session

Offer 50+ sessions for incoming graduate students in Sept-Oct

More sessions offered Jan/Feb and May/June

Employ a team of experienced graduate student GBSV facilitators hired by SE

elearning
Foundations of Consent
offered as an informational precursor
(foundational definitions & policy landscape)

Throughout October, use Brightspace to communicate with those who have not completed the training

Failure to complete results in inability to register for term 2

Western  StudentExperience

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Skills Focused On

1. Using Power for Good

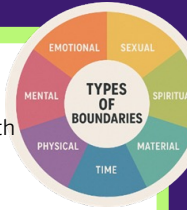
- Explain and reflect on your use of power over/under with others and how to be accountable to that positional power.
- Recognize the power you hold in relationships with students and clients, and how this power can impact campus culture.

3. Understanding Trauma & Triggers

- Differentiate between activating vs triggering behaviours and identify ways to implement practices and tools to support safer professional engagement.
- Recognize how to integrate trauma-informed approaches into your unique role on campus.

2. Setting Boundaries

- Identify how to set and maintain boundaries with students and staff you may have power over/under.
- Practice effective boundary-setting strategies.



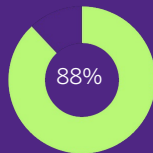
4. Tools for De-escalation

- Develop practical skills to navigate difficult interactions with students/clients.
- Practice effective de-escalation strategies related to your professional role.

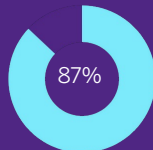
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Program Impact

450 students completed a post-training evaluation survey...



agreed that the training would help their future professional work



agreed that the scenarios seemed realistic

When asked to name **key learnings** from the training, participants responded...

- Professional labelling of different boundaries and power
- That we too have power even in a professional relationship with our teachers or supervisors
- That these skills are transferable, in many situations, not just as a student leader but as well as a teaching assistant

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Wellness & Well-being

PHYSICAL HEALTH ▾
MENTAL HEALTH ▾
CASE MANAGEMENT ▾
LEARN & CONNECT ▾
EMPLOYEE CLINIC

Home > Gender-Based Sexual Violence > Prevention > Supporting Safer Professional Practice: Incoming Graduate Training

- Cameras must be on
- 40 per session
- Participation embedded throughout
- Survivor support readily available
- Must stay for the full duration
- Facilitators can remove

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- What training do I need to complete? ▾
- Will my completion in this training be included in my transcript? ▾
- What if I am a survivor of GBSV and I feel unsafe taking this training? ▾
- I accepted my offer at Western, but now I am deferring to next year. Do I still need to complete the training? ▾
- What happens if I am unable to complete the training before the deadline? ▾
- I am an exchange student/visiting research student. Do I need to complete the training? ▾

Have a question not answered here?

Email us at gsbv.edu@uwu.ca. We would be happy to answer your question.


StudentExperience

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SGPS: FAQs and Answers

- How is the milestone added to student records?**
 - SGPS will add the milestone as Not Completed within a few weeks of start of term, each term for new admits
- Who marks the milestone as completed, and when?**
 - SGPS will mark the milestone as Completed, ongoing, as student completion data is shared by Student Experience
- How can I check if students have completed it?**
 - You can run this query: WSA_GR_PA_MILESTONE_CHECK
 - Note that a milestone will not appear as completed if the student has signed up for a future training session; only completion of the training will fulfil the milestone requirement and allow for registration in term two.


Graduate&PostdoctoralStudies

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****Please note that there is a different module with a similar title in Brightspace available to all registered graduate students: Supporting Disclosure of Gender-Based and Sexual Violence at Western.**

These modules are separate; the mandatory training for new graduate students is **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) Prevention Education: Supporting Safer Professional Practice.**

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Questions?

gbsv.edu@uwo.ca

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