

GRADUATE EDUCATION COUNCIL (GEC) SUPERVISION AND MENTORSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mandate

The GEC Supervision and Mentorship Advisory Committee is responsible for advising the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS) on needs, trends, and emerging practices that strengthen the quality of supervision and mentorship for graduate students. The Committee advises SGPS on initiatives and best practices in fostering a culture of strong, equitable, and inclusive supervision and mentorship that empowers faculty supervisors and graduate students.

Responsibilities

The Committee is responsible for:

1. Identifying trends, challenges, and best practices in graduate supervision and mentorship across disciplines.
2. Recommending programming, training, and resources to support faculty members in developing/enhancing supervision skills and best practices.
3. Supporting the campus community in mentorship skills and best practices.
4. Providing advice on supervision related policies, including supervision guidelines, expectations documents, orientation materials, and conflict-resolution resources.
5. Identifying systemic issues or barriers that affect the quality, accessibility, or equity of supervision and mentorship experiences.
6. Promoting cross-campus partnerships with units such as the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Human Rights Office, Student Wellness Services, Human Resources/Faculty Development, Office of the Ombudsperson and others as related.
7. Engaging external perspectives such as recent alumni and community/industry partners, to ensure mentorship practices reflect evolving academic, professional and societal expectations.
8. Reporting to the GEC on activities, outcomes, and recommendations.

Composition:

Elected Members**

- Two Graduate Students (1 PhD, 1 Master's), elected by GEC
- One Graduate Assistant, elected by GEC
- Six Faculty Members with experience in graduate student supervision, two of whom should be current or recent graduate chairs (or equivalent) with a balance between STEM and non-STEM disciplines, elected by GEC
- One Representative from the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, appointed by SGPS
- One Representative from Student Wellness/Mental Health Services, appointed by SGPS

Ex Officio Members:

- Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning (or designate)
- *Vice-Provost, SGPS
- *Associate Vice-Provosts, SGPS
- Postdoctoral Services Coordinator, SGPS
- Program Specialist, Graduate Student Life, Student Experience

- Ombudsperson (or designate)

* The Vice-Provost or one of the Associate Vice-Provosts will serve as Chair of the Mentorship Advisory Committee.

Terms of Appointment:

All elected/appointed members for two-year terms with the exception of graduate students whose term is for one year. All appointments are renewable once. Ex Officio members serve by virtue of their position.

** Every effort must be made to have an equitable and transparent process for identification of candidates, to ensure breadth of disciplinary representation and that the elected/appointed members reflect Western's commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, Decolonizing- Indigenization.

Meetings

The Committee will meet at least two times per academic year, or more frequently as needed.

Additional working groups or subcommittees may be established to support specific initiatives (e.g., mentorship curriculum, supervision training).

The Committee may seek advice from external partners such as graduate alumni, as relevant, who may also be invited to attend Committee meetings.

Revised November 2025 (Supersedes April 2023; March 2014)