Information Session
MScPT Scholarly Practice Curriculum
Department of Physical Therapy
University of Toronto

Crystal MacKay, PhD, PT
Nancy Salbach, PhD, PT
Academic Co-Leads
Session Overview

• Welcome and Introductions
• MScPT Scholarly Practice Curriculum goals & timelines
• Role and time commitment to serve as a lead advisor
• Project submission and selection
• Scope of the projects that can be submitted
• Q & A
Meet your Unit 7 & 13 Academic Leads

Nancy Salbach (she/her), PhD, PT
Unit 7 Academic Co-lead

Crystal MacKay (she/her), PhD, PT
Unit 7 & 13 Academic Co-lead

Darlene Reid (she/her), PhD, PT
Unit 13 Academic Co-lead
MScPT Scholarly Practice Curriculum Goal

Students will develop competency in multiple domains of physiotherapy practice (ie, communication, collaboration, management, leadership, scholarship, and professionalism) through outlining and conducting a group research or program evaluation project in collaboration with advisors:

• Developing a 10-page research proposal based on a project outline
• Developing and submitting an ethics application and obtaining ethics approval
• Developing a work plan (“learning contract”)
• Collecting and analyzing data
• Developing a poster and manuscript to disseminate knowledge
• Presenting project proposal and project findings

“Learn by doing”

Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada (2017)
**Unit 7: 3 weeks**
Lectures, tutorials

**Outputs:**
- 10-pg Research proposal
- Learning contract
- Protocol presentation
- Prepare REB application

**Unit 6:**
- Meet students
- Lecture: Research question, Lit review

**Unit 13: 6 weeks**
Data analysis, reporting

**Outputs:**
Manuscript
Poster @Research Day

**Call for Projects**
Deadline
Ranking

**Research Mondays:** data collection, entry, cleaning

**Workshops & Lectures:**
- Qual. data collection/analysis
- SPSS, NVivo
- Quantitative data analysis

**Submit to:**
Conference Journal
What do the MScPT Program vs Advisors Provide?

**MScPT Program**
- Faculty advisor if project selected
- Lectures & Workshops on:
  - Literature searching, reference management
  - Protocol development
  - Quantitative & qualitative research methodology
  - Ethics & program evaluation
  - Manuscript & poster writing
- Instructor & TA support
- Nvivo & SPSS software, Zoom
- Student group as a resource

**Advisors**
- Project idea (Outline)
- Critical feedback on student documents
- Project leadership - Facilitate:
  - REB application
  - Data collection
  - Project progress
  - Positive collaborative experience
- Cover project costs
- Regular meetings during SP units
## Time Commitment Estimates for Lead Advisors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th># Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July ’24 Unit 6</td>
<td>1 orientation meeting with students (Zoom or in person)</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep ’24 Unit 7</td>
<td>4 meetings with students (Zoom or in person)</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2 reviews of the 10-page research proposal</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
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<td>2 reviews of the slide deck for 15-minute presentation</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 review of learning contract</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan – Jun ’25</td>
<td>~13 Research Mondays, standing 1-hour meeting each Monday, not all will be needed</td>
<td>~13 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 10, 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun – Jul ’25</td>
<td>2 reviews of manuscript</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 13</td>
<td>2 reviews of poster</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Completion of student evaluation form and debrief</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throughout</td>
<td>Emails</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
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</tbody>
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**TOTAL:** 38 hours*

*does not include drafting project outline, REB application & response, pursuit of journal publication post-program
Advisory Model

Lead & Co-advisors

Faculty Advisor

Student Group

Unit 7 Academic Leads

Teaching Assistant
Project Submission

- Project Templates in Word and Example Projects are Available Online in the Project Submission Website
- A Project Checklist is Available Online in the Project Submission Website
Overview of MScPT projects in 2023

- 19 projects in total
  - 10 qualitative projects
  - 2 e-surveys
  - 2 chart reviews
  - 2 measurement
  - 1 experimental (pre-post)
  - 2 secondary data analysis
Project Scope: Qualitative Projects

- **Sample size:** 10 to 12 participants
- **Recruitment:**
  - One population only
  - Ideally, you have access to a list of potential individuals for recruitment
- **Data collection:** Interviews and focus groups conducted using Zoom to avoid student travel
- **Analysis:**
  - Students transcribe the interviews
  - Descriptive qualitative study with thematic or content analysis is feasible, but not more advanced approaches
  - At UofT, students have access to Zoom and NVivo software for free
# Project Scope: E-Surveys

- **Sample size:** will depend on the population and response rate
- **Recruitment:** If you want to recruit through the CPA or the OPA, you need a confirmation email from them stating they will assist
  - 2023, CPA required the questionnaire to be translated into French
  - One population only, must pay for monetary incentives
- **Data collection:** Ideally use or adapt validated questionnaires, adapted questionnaires should undergo a validity review
  - must pay license for Qualtrics or SurveyMonkey; REDCap is free for UofT faculty
- **Analysis:**
  - Statistics: Descriptive, chi-squared, correlations, t-test (no regression)
  - At UofT, students have access to SPSS software for free
Project Scope: Prospective pilot or Measurement studies with scheduled in-person evaluations

- **Sample size:** 10-20 participants
- **Recruitment:** Healthy participants for proof of concept is common; recruitment of patient populations is challenging
  - Can recruit from PT class and UofT community
- **Data collection:** Need to train PT students and oversee data collection
  - Keep evaluation duration to a reasonable time period
- **Analysis:**
  - Statistics: Descriptive, chi-squared, correlations, t-test (no regression), ICC, Bland-Altman plots
  - At UofT, students have access to SPSS software for free
**Project Scope: Retrospective Chart Reviews**

- **Sample size:** 100-200 charts is feasible, depending on the amount of data to abstract
- **Data collection:** Sometimes hospital business center can abstract the data for the students to analyze
  - Online data abstraction more feasible than asking students to travel to the hospital
  - Hospitals may require students to complete training and charge per student abstractor
  - Data transfer agreements (required if data will come to UofT) can cause delays
- **Ethics:** Need hospital ethics approval then UofT ethics approval, this takes more time (strategy: get REB approval before Unit 7)
- **Analysis:**
  - Statistics: Descriptive, chi-squared, correlations, t-test (no regression)
  - At UofT, students have access to SPSS software for free
Advisors:

Keys to Success in Unit 7 & Unit 13

- Unit 7: Finalize research questions by end of week 1
- Effective communication
- If lead advisor not available at a critical time, another advisor should cover
- Quick turnaround time to respond to questions & provide feedback on presentation slides and protocol
- With multiple clinical advisors, one should take a leadership role – clarify role of each advisor at start of unit
- Group meetings to resolve challenges
- Weekly meetings during data collection to keep on track
- Projects should be feasible for novice researchers