

MOVED that the Master of Medical Studies (MMS) Courses and the Master of Medical Studies (MMS) 2020-2021 Calendar of Academic Events be approved as presented.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

- Revised Calendar of Events (for approval)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The MMS aims to train clinician researchers, in particular physicians in Northern Ontario, with a rural and remote research focus.

Academic Council approved the Master of Medical Studies program proposal on December 7, 2017 and the Joint Senate Committee approved the proposal on December 8, 2017.

The program plans to admit the first cohort of students in September 2020. In order to achieve this goal, approval of the MMS courses by Academic Council is needed to meet the Host University deadlines to have the courses included in the 2020-2021 Academic Calendars at Lakehead University and Laurentian University.

Required Courses:

- Research Thesis
- Introduction to Research in Medical Studies
- Independent Study/ or Advanced Topic
- Bioethics and Research Integrity

Elective Courses:

- Research Grant Writing
- Critical Appraisal
- Special Topics in Rural and Remote Practice

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT/COMPLIANCE

A strategic priority at NOSM is to enrich our educational programs. Developing and starting a Master’s program is a direct strategy to achieve this objective. Approval of the proposed Master of Medical Studies courses will ensure that the program will be offered in September 2020 and will be successful

INPUT FROM OTHER SOURCES

The Graduate Studies Committee has reviewed and approved the MMS Course descriptions_2020.01.08 and MMS 2020-2021 Calendar of Academic Events_2020.01.08 on January 17, 2020. Academic Council approval on February 13, 2020

ATTACHMENTS

MMS Course descriptions_2020.01.13 **** Updated numbering from MMS to MEDS with corresponding Codes and Credit Values (request from Laurentian) approved by Dr. David Marsh, Associate Dean Research (February 19, 2020)**

Master of Medical Studies Graduate Courses

The purpose of creating the MMS program is to provide an opportunity for physicians, to learn and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful researchers. Accreditation standards for undergraduate medical education, postgraduate training and continuing professional development all include reference to research and scholarly activity as important components in medical practice in Canada. According to the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC), there has been a plateau in the number of clinicians trained as research scientists. Hence, there is a need for medical schools to provide programs that train physicians to become qualified clinician researchers. The MMS program and the MMS courses are specifically designed with a focus on clinician scientists who work primarily in rural or remote regions and ask research questions unique to these environments.

The MMS graduate program will be delivered using NOSM's unique Distributed Community Engaged Learning (DCEL) model, which has been successfully offered as part of NOSM's undergraduate MD program for over ten years. An important aspect of this model is that the courses will be offered asynchronously to accommodate the clinical practice schedules of the students. All of the course offerings for the MMS program, listed below, are graduate level courses. The MMS courses were designed to best accommodate our unique target audience, practicing physicians, and to successfully use the distributed course delivery model.

MEDS 5810 - Research Thesis (9 credits Laurentian/ 1.5 credits Lakehead, required)

This course comprises the research thesis component of the MMS degree. The thesis will be written in either the traditional approach utilizing individual chapters or the more progressive approach as an expanded manuscript. The approach, which is taken, is decided by the student's thesis committee and takes into consideration the area of research interests. It is expected that each student will enroll concurrently in this course each semester that they are in the program either as a full time or part time student. Once the thesis is completed and successfully defended, then the total course credit of 9 will be awarded.

MEDS 5815 - Introduction to Research in Medical Studies (3 credits Laurentian/ 0.5 credits Lakehead, required)

This is the foundational course for the MMS degree and it focuses on contemporary approaches in conducting research in medicine and the health care field. It includes topics such as: research design and experimentation, qualitative and quantitative methodology and analyses, and the development of a research proposal. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to develop a research proposal and apply the appropriate qualitative or quantitative approach to data collection and analysis as it relates to health-based research.

MEDS 5830 - Independent Study/or Advanced Topics (3 credits Laurentian/ 0.5 credits Lakehead, required)

This course is designed to introduce the student to a topic of interest that is related to their proposed area of research. This course will allow the student to explore their area of interest in greater depth and gain more specialized and specific knowledge, which will assist in designing and conducting their thesis research project. The topic will be agreed upon by the advisor and student and must be related to their research area of interest. Upon completion of this course, the student will have a greater understanding of the selected area of research in order to develop of their own research proposal and thesis topic.

MEDS 5835 – Bioethics and Research Integrity (3 credits Laurentian/ 0.5 credits Lakehead, required)

This course is designed to provide the student with an in-depth understanding of topics in research bioethics and responsible conduct of research in areas of health and medicine, in particular as they relate to research in rural, remote and marginalized communities. This course will include consideration of the moral, ethical and philosophical implications as they relate to health research and the principles of responsible conduct of research in the context of national and international standards.

MEDS 5850 – Research Grant Writing (1.5 credits Laurentian/ 0.25 credits Lakehead, elective)

This course introduces students to various aspects of grant writing and grant writing styles. The course focuses on the step-by-step processes involved in creating a competitive research grant proposal. The course also provides instruction on identifying health research funding opportunities from local, provincial, national and international agencies, including those unique to Northern Ontario. The course culminates in students developing and writing a grant proposal based on their chosen area of research interest and how the funding would support advancement of that field of study.

MEDS 5855 - Critical Appraisal (1.5 credits Laurentian/ 0.25 credits Lakehead, elective)

This course will introduce students to methods for critically evaluating health research by focusing on critical appraisal of current and relevant health research publications, including clinical research. The course will include a systematic approach for evaluating the strengths, weaknesses and value of research data and how to assess the usefulness and validity of the research findings. The students will also learn the skills necessary to evaluate various types of research methodologies with the aim of providing the students with the tools to guide their own critical analysis and evaluate their own written work.

MEDS 5870 – Special topics in Rural and Remote Practice (1.5 credits Laurentian/ 0.25 credits Lakehead, elective)

This course will focus on aspects of rural and remote practice in the context of Northern Ontario. The course will include topics on health and illness as they relate to rural and remote communities, what defines rural and remote, access to care, interpretation of social determinants of health, training for rural or remote practice, and recruitment and retention of rural health workforce. This course will introduce students to organizations that address rural and remote practices globally.

2020-2021 MMS Program Calendar of Academic Events

Fall Term	MMS Program
First day of classes	Sept 9 2020
Final day to add	Sept 18 2020
Final day to withdraw	Nov 2 2020
Reading week	Oct 13- Oct 16 2020
Last day of classes	Dec 8 2020
Exam period	Dec 10- Dec 20 2020
Marks due	Dec 22 2020
Winter Term	
First day of classes	Jan 4, 2021
Final day to add	Jan 15 2021
Final day to withdraw	Feb 26 2021
Reading week	Feb 15-Feb 19 2021
Last day of classes	April 1 2021
Exam period	April 6- April 19 2021
Marks due	April 19 2021
Spring/Summer Term	
First day of classes	May 2 2021
Final day to add	May 5 2021
Final day to withdraw	June 11 2021
Last day of classes	July 22 2021
Exam period	July 23-24 2021
Marks due	Aug 4 2021

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Version	Date	Authors/Comments/Amendments/Approvals
1.0	2020.02.13	Presented to AC - February 13 / JSC - Changes to Course Codes and Credits approved by DMarsh - 2-19-2020