

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 390

MEMORANDUM

To Senate

From H.M. Evans, Secretary

Senate Committee on Graduate Studies

Subject Revised M.A. and Ph.D. Graduate
Programs in the Department of
Geography

Date July 20, 1970

Attached is the revised M.A. and Ph.D. program in the Department of Geography which was approved by the Senate Committee on Graduate Studies at their meeting on July 14, 1970, and is now being forwarded to Senate for approval.

These revised programs were approved by the Department of Geography Graduate Studies Committee on April 8, 1970, and by the Faculty of Arts Graduate Studies Committee on June 1, 1970.

H.M. Evans
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Secretary.

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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
CALENDAR ENTRY
GRADUATE PROGRAM

Areas of Research:

The Department takes a special interest in the development of theoretical and conceptual frameworks in the systematic aspects of Geography; emphasis is placed on the application of these to contemporary and historical geographical problems in western North America, with particular reference to British Columbia and the utilization of its resources.

A number of areas of research may be pursued in cooperation with other departments. Suitably qualified candidates will be encouraged to undertake graduate studies in physical, biological and behavioural sciences, history, and economics, where these are related to their geographical interest.

M.A. PROGRAM

Admission:

Three categories of candidates will be considered for admission to the M.A. degree:

- (a) Students holding a Bachelor's degree in an honours program with at least a good second class standing (3.0 G.P.A.) in Geography or a related discipline; where the candidate's first degree is not in Geography, he should have at least 12 semester hours or the equivalent in upper level Geography courses.
- (b) Students holding a general degree with at least "B" standing (3.0 G.P.A.) that includes 30 semester hours, or the equivalent, in upper level courses in Geography.
- (c) Students who do not entirely satisfy University and departmental conditions for full admission to a graduate program may be admitted as Unclassified Students. Such candidates will be required to complete, under the direction of the Department of Geography, additional work to meet the requirements for full candidacy.

M.A. Committee:

The M.A. candidate, on being admitted to the Department will be assigned a faculty advisor, who will be responsible for supervising the student's initial program of studies and for assisting him in seeking a Supervisory Committee.

This Supervisory Committee is composed of three faculty members, one of whom may be drawn from outside the Department. The Supervisory Committee will be responsible for assisting the student to formulate his program, for evaluating his progress, and for the reporting of this information to the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee.

M.A. Requirements:

1. All graduate students must show competence in methodology and in quantitative techniques, preferably by fulfilling the following requirements before admission.

(a) Methodology.

This requirement will be satisfied by a student taking Geography 406, or its equivalent at another institution. Any student lacking this prerequisite will be expected to take the Geography 406 seminar, which will not form part of the course credits for the M.A. degree. Faculty members who normally teach this course will be responsible for assessing the criteria for satisfactory performance.

(b) Quantitative Techniques.

This requirement will be satisfied by a student taking Geography 407, or its equivalent at another institution. Any student lacking this prerequisite will be expected to take the Geography 407 seminar, which will not form part of the course credits for the M.A. degree. Faculty members who normally teach this course will be responsible for assessing the criteria for satisfactory performance.

2. At the discretion of his Supervisory Committee, a student may be directed to acquire an adequate knowledge of a language which would be relevant to his studies.

3. The M.A. program consists of two alternative sets of degree requirements:

(a) Extended Essay Program.

Students will be expected to complete 30 credit hours of course work. Under normal circumstances, each candidate will be expected to take the following courses:

Geography 800-3;

two of Geography 802-3, 803-3, 805-3

For his 21 hours of elective credit, a student will be encouraged to take some graduate courses outside the Geography Department.

In addition, the student will be expected to write two extended essays on the basis of his graduate work. While no specific format is necessary for these essays, it is recommended that students refer to Kate L. Turabian, Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, University of Chicago Press, 1965, as a guide in preparing their papers.

The two extended essays must meet the approval of an Examining Committee which will consist of the Supervisory Committee plus one member drawn from outside the Department. The Examining Committee may reject an essay or require certain changes. The essay may be resubmitted after the necessary changes have been made.

(b) Thesis Program.

This program requires a thesis and at least 20 hours of course work which must include Geography 800-3. Graduate course work in departments outside of Geography will be encouraged.

The thesis must meet the approval of an Examining Committee which will consist of the Supervisory Committee plus one member drawn from outside the Department. The Examining Committee may reject a thesis or require certain changes to be made. The thesis may be resubmitted after the necessary changes have been made.

4. Colloquium: Each M.A. candidate will be expected to present a paper to the Department at a colloquium. This paper should be based on either one of the candidate's proposed extended essays or his proposed thesis topic, and should be prepared under the supervision of and to the satisfaction of the candidate's Supervisory Committee.

Ph.D. PROGRAM

Admission:

The minimum requirement for admission to the Ph.D. program is the successful completion of a Simon Fraser University M.A. degree in Geography, or its equivalent.

Degree Requirements:

The Ph.D. candidate, on being admitted to the Department, will work under the guidance of an advisory committee composed of three faculty members. This committee will meet during the first week of the student's first semester, and will be responsible for supervising the student's initial program of studies and for assisting him in establishing a Supervisory Committee.

1. The Ph.D. candidate will be expected to show competence in methodology and in quantitative techniques to the level specified by the B.A. Requirements.
2. At the discretion of his Supervisory Committee, a student may be directed to acquire an adequate knowledge of a language which would be relevant to his studies.
3. The program of formal course work and research is designed to suit the background and research objectives of each candidate and may differ widely from candidate to candidate.
4. The candidate will be expected to present at least two seminars, on topics selected by the candidate in consultation with his Supervisory Committee.

The seminars will be presented before interested faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, normally in the period between the first and sixth semesters but before the qualifying examinations. Both the timing and the subject matter of the seminars will be chosen by the student in consultation with his Supervisory Committee. The student's performance must be of a standard acceptable to his Supervisory Committee. Notification of the completion of the seminars should be sent to the Chairman of the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee to be entered on the student's record.

5. Qualifying Examinations. At a time set by the Supervisory Committee, normally at the end of the second year of residence, the candidate will be required to sit written and oral qualifying examinations.

The Qualifying Examination Committee will consist of at least four faculty members from the Department, including the senior supervisor (who will be the Committee Chairman), plus one faculty member to be drawn from outside the Department.

(a) Written. The candidate will select one of the following two options:

- (1) The Qualifying Examination Committee will select a field problem related to the candidate's general research interests.

The student will normally be given two weeks to prepare and present a written report to the Qualifying Examination Committee and his performance will be judged on the basis of its clarity of thought and presentation, appropriate reference to relevant literature, satisfactory collection and presentation of field data and depth of understanding portrayed. Attention will be paid to the appropriateness of the methodology, and the consistency of the conclusions.

A student who fails the field problem may retake it once, after a one semester lapse.

(11) Written Examinations. There will be four examinations:

Part One: One examination paper will be devoted to his field of specialization and will be designed to permit him to explore extensively his chosen area of research.

Part Two: The other three examination papers will be based upon three topics chosen by the candidate in consultation with his Qualifying Examination Committee.

The student may select all four topics from within one of the recognized three sub-branches of the discipline (i.e. physical, economic, cultural) or may select his topics from within several of the sub-branches. Where applicable one paper may be written in a field outside of Geography.

A student who fails an examination paper may re-sit the paper once, after a one semester lapse.

(b) Oral. The oral will be held by the Qualifying Examination Committee at the successful conclusion of all written examinations. The student will be examined primarily in the areas of the topics covered by the written examinations, but questions may range over the entire discipline.

6. Dissertation. The candidate will prepare a dissertation proposal which will be circulated to faculty and resident graduate students and will present this proposal for discussion at a Departmental colloquium.

The completed dissertation will be judged by the candidate's Examining Committee which will include the candidate's Qualifying Examination Committee and by one examiner from outside the University. The dissertation will be defended in oral examination before the Examining Committee. Candidates who fail the dissertation defense will be permitted to retake the examination once only.