

Faculty of Graduate Studies General Regulations

Regulation Details

Name: Master’s Capstone Project or Thesis Dialogue

Number: 1.

Date of Implementation: September 1, 2026

Approving Jurisdiction: Senate

Administrative Responsibility: Graduate Studies Council

1.1 Context and Purpose

Inspired and anchored by Indigenous teachings shared with KPU,¹ this regulation expands upon the policy principle on the master’s capstone project or thesis dialogue (“the Dialogue”) in Policy AC5 Graduate Degree Studies (Policy C.3.d).

This regulation aims to encourage nurturing and supportive dialogues that emphasize connectedness, reciprocity, and community, whilst maintaining KPU’s commitment to academic excellence.

1.2 Scope and Limits

- 1.2.1 This regulation applies to master’s programs that require a capstone project or thesis.
- 1.2.2 Proposals for master’s programs that require a capstone project or thesis should detail the structure and function of the Dialogue within the given program.
- 1.2.3 The specific formats of the Dialogue may vary according to discipline and program features, but should align with the key features outlined below.

1.3 Principles of the Dialogue

- 1.3.1 In an effort to recognize and include Indigenous and Black, People of Colour knowledges, epistemologies, and pedagogies in pursuit of decolonization, reconciliation, anti-racism, equity, and inclusion, ways of teaching and conversation and ceremonial practices in Indigenous and other non-western traditions are encouraged to be adopted, where permitted and culturally appropriate.

¹ Teachings shared by Cyril Pierre, Elder of the Katzie First Nation, Spencer Pierre, member of the Katzie First Nation, and Edward Hall, Knowledge and Language Keeper and member of the Legacy of Chiefs of the Kwikwetlem Nation, with KPU.

- 1.3.2 The Dialogue will facilitate supportive, nurturing, and non-confrontational exchanges for the purpose of understanding and reciprocity.
- 1.3.3 The Dialogue will enable learners to truly learn from their mistakes by providing both summative evaluations and suggestions for future development.
- 1.3.4 The Dialogue will be a culminating experience through which a learner demonstrates a broad mastery of their field of study.
- 1.3.5 The Dialogue should involve a learner's broader knowledge community outside the University, which may include Indigenous Elders, Knowledge and Language Keepers, advisors, field mentors, subject matter experts, and support persons as well as others as appropriate, in addition to their instructors/Graduate Guides and peers.
- 1.3.6 The Dialogue will be a forum for a learner to share and communicate what has been learned through the capstone project or thesis in a way that builds relationships and engages with communities.
- 1.3.7 Where appropriate, a learner should invite active participation of community partners in all phases of their capstone project or thesis research, for the purpose of producing useful results that make positive changes in a community.

1.4 Capstone Project

- 1.4.1 The capstone project in a master's program will be structured as a course taken by a learner in their last term of studies.
- 1.4.2 The capstone project dialogue will normally be scheduled near the end of the capstone project course.
- 1.4.3 The instructor of a capstone project course will be the primary advisor to a learner's capstone project.
- 1.4.4 The instructor of a capstone project course, based on the learner's recommendation, should invite external experts and specialists in the field to participate in the capstone project course and the concluding dialogue.
 - 1.4.4.1 External experts and specialists in the field may advise the instructor on the quality of the capstone project.

1.5 Thesis

- 1.5.1 The thesis in a master's program will be completed through research undertaken beyond normal classwork over the course of one or more terms.
- 1.5.2 A Graduate Guide will work with a learner as a mentor throughout a master's program and as the primary advisor on their thesis work.
- 1.5.3 The Dean of the disciplinary Faculty will identify Graduate Guides and recommend them to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies for approval.
- 1.5.4 The thesis dialogue panel will include at least one external panelist and one KPU panelist.

- 1.5.4.1 The panelists will be recommended by the Graduate Guide and approved by the Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- 1.5.5 The thesis dialogue panel will decide:
 - 1.5.5.1 that the learner's thesis and performance at the dialogue are accepted with or without revision (in the case of an extended, written thesis), or
 - 1.5.5.2 that the learner will re-attempt the dialogue at a future time.