



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

Health:  
Science  
Technology  
& Policy



**Master of Science in Health**

**Health: Science, Technology and Policy Program**

**2026 – 2028 Academic Cohort**



Health: Science, Technology, and Policy Program  
Carleton University  
Health Sciences Building  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1S 5B6

Dear HSTP Student,

On behalf of the Department of Health Sciences, we are excited to welcome you to the Health: Science, Technology, and Policy (HSTP) program at Carleton University. The distinctive features of the HSTP include an emphasis on skill acquisition, using problem-based approaches to understand health issues and sectors, and participation in collaborative interdisciplinary research projects or hands-on field research and placements in the new practicum pathway.

This student handbook provides valuable information about the HSTP program, course offerings, key contacts, and available Carleton University services. We encourage you to review the embedded links for detailed policies and procedures.

As part of the Department of Health Sciences, you'll benefit from an interdisciplinary environment with access to exceptional research labs and passionate faculty members. We are confident your graduate experience will be both exciting and rewarding, and we encourage you to make the most of every opportunity available.

Any specific departmental questions should be forwarded to [Claire.MacArthur@carleton.ca](mailto:Claire.MacArthur@carleton.ca).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We're here to help!

With respect,



Martin Holcik  
Departmental Chair



Edana Cassol  
Graduate Chair



Francine Darroch  
HSTP Program Director



Claire MacArthur  
Graduate Administrator

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## **Overview of HSTP Registration Procedures & Course Progression**

Like most graduate programs, the MSc in HSTP is a **full-time program** for 5 continuous terms, with the exception of the Advanced Entry. This includes the summer term after first year. Students are further expected to work with supervisors on research projects and placements, and to meet with team members outside of scheduled class time. To support a healthy work-life balance, it is recommended that students limit outside employment to no more than 15 hours per week.

Below are some guidelines to help you navigate the program:

### **A. Resources and Contacts**

The information contained within is accurate as of June 2025. However, the Department of Health Sciences reserves the right to correct any errors. If you have any questions about the program, **first** contact the graduate administrator, who will answer or direct your question to the appropriate person or resource.

**Claire MacArthur — Graduate and Department Administrator, Department of Health Sciences**  
[Claire.Macarthur@carleton.ca](mailto:Claire.Macarthur@carleton.ca) - Contact Claire for help with processes (e.g. registration, program/course questions). Any questions that Claire cannot answer, she will direct to the appropriate person or resource.

**Dr. Francine Darroch — HSTP Program Director, Department of Health Sciences**  
[francine.darroch@carleton.ca](mailto:francine.darroch@carleton.ca)

**Dr. Edana Cassol — Graduate Chair, Department of Health Sciences**  
[edana.cassol@carleton.ca](mailto:edana.cassol@carleton.ca)

**Dr. Martin Holcik — Chair, Department of Health Sciences**  
[martin.holcik@carleton.ca](mailto:martin.holcik@carleton.ca)

### **B. September 2026 Orientation (required for all new students in the HSTP program)**

**When/Where: Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am.**

This will take place in the Health Sciences Building HSTP room (near the elevator) and room 2308 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor boardroom).

Orientation will be held in person. You will have the opportunity to meet the other graduate students, the Graduate Administrator, and the professors in the Department of Health Sciences.

### C. Registration and tuition

Registration occurs through Carleton Central (<http://central.carleton.ca/>) using your student ID and password. Registration for returning and new graduate students will open as of July 10, 2026 (please refer to Carleton Central for your registration timeticket). You must register for both the Fall and Winter Terms of 2026-2027. Summer Term registration will be available at the end of March 2027.

Please note you will not be able to register for classes until the conditions have been removed from your offer of admission. Often the condition is to have an official transcript of your undergraduate degree sent directly to [Graduate Studies](#) at Carleton University. For those who have graduated this spring from Carleton University, your official transcript will be uploaded by Graduate Studies once Senate confers the degree. International students must be sure to contact WES Canada ([www.wes.org/ca](http://www.wes.org/ca)) to request an Academic Credential Evaluation sent to Graduate Studies. All others must request official transcript from their previous academic institution.

You can find your tuition fees here: <https://carleton.ca/studentaccounts/tuition-fees/>. Once you have finalised your course selection, you will be able to access your tuition on Carleton Central. Once you choose your courses and register in them, while in Carleton Central, you can jump to Student Accounts and click on calculate amount to pay. You can also use the Fee Estimator tool here: [Fee Estimator - Carleton University](#). Scholarship funding can be used as partial payment, but you will need to make fee payment arrangements for the remainder of the balance.

### D. The HSTP MSc

#### Program Sequence

| Year   | Term   | Research Pathway                                                                           | Practicum Pathway                                                                                           | Advanced Entry                                                                                                                    |
|--------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Year 1 | Fall   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HLTH 5100, HLTH 5201, HLTH 5903</li></ul>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HLTH 5100, HLTH 5201, HLTH 5903</li></ul>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HLTH 5100, HLTH 5201, HLTH 5903</li><li>Possible elective course (i.e. HLTH 5702)</li></ul> |
|        | Winter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HLTH 5150, HLTH 5300, HLTH 5350, HLTH 5402</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HLTH 5150, HLTH 5300, HLTH 5350, HLTH 5402</li></ul>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HLTH 5150, HLTH 5300, HLTH 5350, HLTH 5402,</li></ul>                                       |
|        | Summer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recommended to take majority of electives</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HLTH 5506</li><li>Recommended to take majority of electives</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Any remaining elective courses</li></ul>                                                    |
| Year 2 | Fall   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HLTH 5507</li></ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HLTH 5506</li></ul>                                                   |                                                                                                                                   |

|  |               |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                     |  |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any remaining elective courses</li> </ul>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any remaining elective courses</li> </ul>                    |  |
|  | <b>Winter</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HLTH 5507</li> <li>Any remaining elective courses</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HLTH 5506</li> <li>Any remaining elective courses</li> </ul> |  |

Practicum Pathway will need to register for HLTH 5506 only in the two terms for which they have a secured practicum placement (Summer 2027, Fall 2027 and/or Winter 2028), following permission from the department. Students in the Research Pathway will be expected to start some aspects of their research project (i.e. preliminary readings, ethics clearance, etc.) beginning Fall 2026; however, they need only register for HLTH 5507 in the Fall 2027 and Winter 2028 terms.

### **Program Requirements for the HSTP MSc (6.0 credits)**

The HSTP MSc is a **full-time** program of study for all 5 terms.

- Core courses must be taken in above designated sequence (3.5 credits):
  - 0.5 credit in HLTH 5100 Fundamentals of Research Methods
  - 0.5 credit in HLTH 5150 Statistics for Health Sciences
  - 0.5 credit in HLTH 5201 Fundamentals of Policy I: Policy Analysis
  - 0.5 credit in HLTH 5300 Knowledge Translation
  - 0.5 credit in HLTH 5350 New Health Technologies
  - 0.5 credit in HLTH 5402 Biological and Social Fundamentals of Health
  - 0.5 credit in HLTH 5903 Current topics in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
- Elective courses (1.5 credits):
  - Graduate elective courses offered through the Department of Health Sciences (i.e. HLTH 5702 or HLTH 5704)
  - Graduate courses offered by other departments at Carleton University, or through the University of Ottawa, selected in consultation with the HSTP Program Director.
- Required Research Project or Practicum Pathway (1.0 credits):
  - 1 credit in HLTH 5507 Interdisciplinary Health Research Project
  - OR
  - 1 credit in HLTH 5506 Field Research and Placement

### **HLTH 5507 – Interdisciplinary Health Research Project of the HSTP MSc (1.0 credits)**

This one-credit Interdisciplinary Health Research Project (individual or group) is the primary research component of the HSTP MSc Research Pathway. It is important to understand that although most of the research projects are group based, students completing the group-based project will be assessed

based on their *individual* substantive contributions to the project. This includes attendance and participation in group meetings, contributions over the course of the program, and final deliverable. It needs to be further emphasised that a failing grade will be received for the research project (and thus the entire program) if the students do not demonstrate graduate level standards of scholarship, or if the project is not completed on time.

The research project will require a time commitment of approximately 10 hours per week while enrolled in required courses and approximately 20 hours per week while not enrolled in additional courses (project/supervisor dependent). HLTH 5507 is scheduled as a course so that you will have minimum 3 hours weekly of protected time each term (Tuesdays from 8:35am to 11:25am in the fall and winter terms) towards your research project endeavours. This is not traditional class or lecture time. It provides a time when the student (for individual project) or all members (for the group project) must be available to meet with each other and, at times, with the research project stakeholders, research supervisors, topic experts, etc. You will still have to find time each week outside of the protected 3 hours to devote towards your research project, meet with your supervisor, and ensure you are meeting the time-commitment.

### **Interdisciplinary Health Research Projects for 2026-2028**

- **Why Won't my Wound Heal? Understanding Chronic Wound Healing and Access to Wound Care in Ottawa**  
Supervisors/Organizations: Dr. Edana Cassol (Department of Health Sciences, Carleton University), Dr. Utkarsh Dang (Department of Health Sciences, Carleton University), Dr. Joerg Overhage (Department of Health Sciences, Carleton University), Dr. Jonah Marek ((Saint Vincent Hospital) and Dr. Katrina DeZeeuw (Saint Vincent Hospital)
- **A Framework for Wellbeing: Implementing Health-Promoting Environments in Healthcare Education and Practice**  
Supervisors/Organizations: Dr. Jerry Maniate (Equity in Health Systems EqHS Lab, Bruyère Research Institute, Dr. Victor Do (University of Alberta), Dr. Renate Ysseldyk (Department of Health Sciences, Carleton University).
- **Effect of Increasing Sleep Duration on Health Outcomes in Short-Sleeping Adolescents.**  
Supervisors/Organizations: Dr. Jean-Philippe Chaput (Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Research Institute).
- **Knowledge Translation for Substance Use Health: Building Equity Through Experiential Evidence**  
Supervisor / Organization: Dr. Kim Helleman, Assistant Professor, Department of Neuroscience, Carleton University & Brianne Peters, Research Lead, CAPSA
- **An Intergenerational Trauma- and Violence- Informed Physical Activity Approach to Prevent Violence**  
Supervisor: Dr. Francine Darroch, Carleton University Collaborators: Ottawa Community Housing Foundation, St. Mary's Home, Dr. John Oliffe, UBC lead of Men's Health Research

- **Effects of Social Media Reduction on Mental Health in Youth: A Randomized Controlled Trial**  
Supervisor: Dr. Gary Goldfield (Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) / Dept of Psychology, Carleton University / University of Ottawa) Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Chris Davis (Dept of Psychology, Carleton University), Collaborators/Co-supervisors: Drs. Mark Tremblay, Jean-Philippe Chaput, Marjorie Robb, Clare Gray, Andrée-Anne Ledoux, Paula Cloutier, Patricia Longmuir.
- **Effects of Mindfulness-based Eating Awareness Training delivered via Application for Disordered Eating and Mental Health in Youth with Obesity: The MB-EAT Smart Teen Double-Blind, Randomized Controlled Study**  
Supervisor: Dr. Gary Goldfield (Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) / Dept of Psychology, Carleton University / University of Ottawa), Collaborators/Co-supervisors: Drs. Mary Jiang (CHEO), Megan Harrison (CHEO), Andree Anne Ledoux (CHEO), Nicole Obeid (CHEO), Jean Kristeller (Indiana University), Wendy Spettigue (CHEO), Mark Norris (CHEO), Corien Peters (CHEO).
- **Spirituality in an Ageing Society: Mapping Contradictions for Health** Supervisor: Dr. Renate Ysseldyk (Department of Health Sciences, Carleton University)  
Collaborators/Co-supervisors: Dr. Albert Banerjee (St. Thomas University, New Brunswick); Dr. Susan Braedley (School of Social Work, Carleton University)

### **HLTH 5506 – Field Research and Placement (1.0 credits)**

The practicum pathway allows students to gain experience by completing *two 12-week practicums or one 24-week practicum* (a 12-week practicum is the equivalent of 420 hours i.e., equivalent of 35 hours per week for 12 weeks) at an appropriate organization (e.g. public health unit, provincial or federal governmental agency or non-governmental organization). As a student, you are responsible for seeking and securing a practicum that aligns with your interests and career goals, enabling you to apply your knowledge and skills in a professional setting. The HSTP Program Director and Graduate Administrator are available to provide guidance and support throughout this process. The practicum must be completed full-time over two terms of the program. Students are required to register in HLTH 5506 only in the two terms when the practicum(s) take place, with permission from the department after receiving approval from the HSTP Program Director. Approval forms are available by request from the HSTP Program Director or Graduate Administrator.

***The HSTP program is a full-time program of study***; it is recommended that students do not work full-time while completing their studies. HSTP students working part-time must arrange their part-time work schedules around the HSTP program. This ensures their availability for scheduled meetings,

courses, and other program-related commitments, including research and meetings with supervisors. The need to prioritise the MSc over part-time work ensures the timely completion of course and project milestones and deliverables.

**Advanced Entry** - This intensive, one-year, course-based program is designed for professionals with at least three years of full-time work experience in a health-related field. It can be completed in 12 consecutive months as a full-time student, or at a more flexible pace as a part-time student. All graduate students in this option must fulfill the same core and elective course requirements as the research and practicum pathways.

**Specialization in Accessibility** - The [Collaborative Specialization in Accessibility](#) is a unique multidisciplinary education experience that facilitates the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes for building an accessible and inclusive society. Students must complete the two core courses ACCS5001 Critical Disability Studies and ACCS5002 Accessible and Inclusive Design.

### **Required elective courses for the HSTP MSc (1.5 credits)**

MSc in HSTP students are required to take 1.5 elective credits as part of their program requirements. We recommend that you complete the elective courses during the Summer and Fall 2027 terms. Students are encouraged to look outside of the Health Science Department for the electives in order to increase the breadth of their learning. You may consult with your project supervisor or HSTP Program Director, for assistance in selecting relevant courses.

### **The process for selecting graduate level elective courses:**

1. Consider your reason for taking the HSTP program, including your career goals. Use this to help you identify topics and expertise that will help you to acquire the knowledge and skills you need to reach your goals.
2. Determine if you have the required background to succeed in a graduate level course in the area(s) you have identified. If you do not have sufficient background, an option might be to take additional prerequisite course(s) to build up your knowledge in the area. You must contact the instructor of your graduate course of interest to determine if you have the prerequisites to take the course, and to determine if there is space available for you in the course.
3. Review the graduate calendar (<https://calendar.carleton.ca/grad/>) to identify available course titles and descriptions in your target area, then review the Public Class Schedule ([https://central.carleton.ca/prod/bwysched.p\\_select\\_term?wsea\\_code=EXT](https://central.carleton.ca/prod/bwysched.p_select_term?wsea_code=EXT)) to verify actual dates/times of course offerings per term. Be sure that none of your proposed electives conflict with required HSTP courses with respect to scheduling, or overlap in topic.
4. Identify a list of courses of interest (i.e. more than the 3 elective courses needed for the MSc) as you may discover that some choices are not optimal/appropriate. Some courses may be full or

core courses restricted to students in another program. For each course on your list that is outside of the HSTP HLTH courses, write a very short paragraph explaining why the course is of interest to you, demonstrating that you have the necessary background to succeed in the course, and discussing how the course is aligned with your career goals. These notes will assist you when contacting a course instructor to seek approval to take a course.

5. The Department of Health Sciences offers some elective courses each year, with the number and topics depending on demand and availability. As a student registered in the HSTP program, you may register for these HSTP-specific HLTH courses, but, as they are electives, they are optional. Examples of courses offered and/or planned include health policy and administration, health of populations, biostatistics, and epidemiology.

### **Elective Option - HLTH 5801: HSTP Practicum Placement**

MSc in HSTP students have the option to complete a practicum placement as one of their elective courses (worth 0.5 credit). This practicum supports students in gaining relevant and practical experience through applying course learnings at approved organizations. Students are responsible for arranging

the placement with an external partner where the practicum will be held, preparing a learning contract, and completing a field-based project deliverable and final report. Students must complete a minimum of 100 hours and a maximum of 150 hours to complete the practicum as well as meeting expectations of the placement supervisor. For more information, please see FAQ's in Appendix D on page 28. For additional information about this option, please speak with the HSTP Program Director.

Students must complete 2 full academic terms prior to enrollment in HLTH 5801.

### **Special Consideration for Electives in Departments External to Health Sciences**

Registration in courses in other departments at Carleton University or at other universities is not guaranteed; you are required to meet the requirements based on the department/university as well as ensuring that you can transfer the credit to Carleton University. Thus, you need to start the planning for electives well in advance, as many universities require a formal application process.

Registration in elective courses outside of Health Sciences department depends on a variety of factors including available space in the course and your ability to satisfactorily demonstrate to the course instructor (and/or program administrator) that you have the required prerequisites and/or knowledge. We work to establish relationships with other units to facilitate this, but it is challenging to predict student interest in courses in advance, as each HSTP cohort is diverse and distinct.

The process of approval of Carleton University elective courses that are external to the Department of Health Sciences is as follows:

- Be sure you meet the prerequisites for the course, and that the course is not restricted (i.e. you may need to inquire with the program administrator).

- Contact the course instructor to introduce yourself and to ask permission to register in the course. At this time, you may also ask for the course syllabus (which you will need for approval on our end).
- Complete the “External to department elective approval form” (found here - <https://carleton.ca/healthsciences/health-sciences/graduate/forms-guidelines-and-documents/>).
- Email the completed form and course syllabus to the HSTP Program Director for approval (cc Graduate Administrator)
- Once approved, you may register for the course via Carleton Central. You may require an override request, in which case it’s best to contact the program administrator who oversees the course of interest.
- Please keep in mind that departments generally ensure that their own students have registered first before allowing other students to register. Enrolment limits for graduate classes are often related to the class format. For example, the student experience is diminished if a seminar and discussion-based class exceeds 25-30 students.

You may be able to take a course at the University of Ottawa or another university (e.g. in the summer or by distance education options, if available). However, the process for making these requests takes time and requires signatures from both institutions so plan early. You may speak with Claire MacArthur to discuss these options, and to go over the processes.

#### **E. HSTP Diploma (Type 3; for students not registered in another Carleton graduate program)**

The HSTP Diploma requires 2.0 credits.

##### **Courses**

##### **0.5 credits of required courses:**

- HLTH 5300 Knowledge Translation (0.5 credits) – recommended in year 1 of Diploma

##### **1.5 credits of elective courses:**

- See information in MSc section above on selection and registration for elective courses

\* Course scheduling is determined centrally by the University and varies each semester, so class times cannot be predicted in advance. Required and elective courses are typically scheduled during the day. If you are employed, you will need to arrange your work schedule accordingly. Please note that courses are not offered on weekends or online.

#### **F. The HSTP Diploma (Type 2; for students registered in another Carleton graduate program)**

The HSTP Diploma requires 2.0 credits.

##### **Courses**

**1.5 credits of required courses:**

- HLTH 5100 Fundamentals of Research Methods (0.5 credits), HLTH 5201 Fundamentals of Policy Analysis (0.5 credits), HLTH 5300 Knowledge Mobilization (0.5 credits)

**0.5 credits of elective courses:**

- See information in MSc section on selection and registration for elective courses

**G. Code of Conduct**

It is expected that you will conduct yourself in a professional manner. This includes how you communicate with your Professors, Instructors, external partners, and each other.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy \(PDF, 1MB\)](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University and the Department of Health Sciences is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

We respect personal gender pronouns and will refer to you in whatever way you would like to be identified (e.g. she/her/hers, he/him/his, they/them/theirs). Additionally, if you prefer to be addressed by Ms./Mrs./Mr. Last name, or a first name other than what is on the class list (e.g.: Liz instead of Elizabeth), please let your Professors, Instructors and peers know.

**H. Department of Health Sciences Statement on Anti-Racism and Discrimination**

The Department of Health Sciences at Carleton University, Canada, stands in solidarity with members of Black, Indigenous and other racialized minorities calling for justice against historic and ongoing state-sponsored violence.

We are committed to educating ourselves and fighting oppression and discrimination while providing a space free of prejudice for our students and all members of the community. We will work to address racism, racist violence, and discrimination through ongoing conversations and awareness-building.

Addressing the issues of racism and inequality will require significant commitments and ongoing efforts by many organizations....and by each of us as individuals. We are dedicated to working with our community to develop solutions that ultimately help bring an end to these longstanding injustices.

To this end we affirm:

- To recognize that racism and discrimination is a public health crisis and publicly affirm our identity as an anti-racist academic department;
- To explicitly identify, discuss and challenge issues of race and the impact(s) they have on our organization, its systems, and its people;
- To also challenge ourselves to understand and correct any inequities we may discover;
- To ensure our anti-racism commitment is reflected in all teaching, supervision and advising in the department; and,

- To implement strategies that dismantle racism and discrimination within all aspects of our department, university, and society.

To provide action to our statement, we have created a permanent anti-racism and equity working group committed to ongoing efforts of equity, diversity, and inclusion (currently meeting bi-weekly). All students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to take part.

## **I. Academic Integrity**

Carleton University details its academic integrity policies and associated documents at the following site: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

All work, including the research, preparation, and writing of the deliverables in this program, is to be that of the individual student, acting alone (except in the case of explicitly assigned group-work or the collaborative research project), and original to the course. You cannot submit, in whole or in part, works prepared for another class or purpose.

For example, plagiarism (“presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own”) will not be tolerated. All ideas, or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, or concepts, *must* include proper citation or reference to the original source. Submitted deliverables will be checked for originality. The Department of Health Sciences has a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism. Academic offences will be reported to the Graduate Chair and the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs and may result in failure in the course or removal from the program.

## **J. Academic Support and Accommodations**

As a Carleton student, you’ll have access to a variety of Student Support Services to assist you during your time at Carleton both in academic, and non-academic matters. At Carleton, we are committed to enhancing your student experience and to creating an environment that contributes to your success during your time at Carleton and after graduation.

<https://carleton.ca/academics/support/>

### **Support for Graduate Students with disabilities**

All students with disabilities taking courses at Carleton University are eligible for academic accommodations and support services through the Paul Menton Centre.

<https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

### **Accommodations**

We strongly encourage you to set up your accommodations as soon as possible.

- Attend your first classes to obtain course outlines (or check if they are posted on BrightSpace)
- Request your Letters of Accommodation (LoAs):
- *Online:* through the myPMC portal, login or find the “how-to” video here: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/students/mypmc/>

- *In Person:* book an appointment by calling the PMC front desk at 613-520-6608

#### **K. Equipment and Facilities in the Health Science Building**

The Health Sciences building houses faculty and administrative offices, state of the art labs and research space, secure computing data labs, a dedicated workspace for HSTP students, and lecture halls. Health Sciences is located at 1125 Colonel By Drive.



#### **L. Professional Skills Development for Graduate Students**

Carleton University offers graduate professional development through Grad Link, a hub for events and opportunities related to professional development, research, and student life, both on and off campus.

<https://carleton.ca/gradpd/>

#### **Career Services**

Career Services at Carleton University offers a number of opportunities for career and networking events, job search supports, training sessions on preparing for interviews, resume and cover letter writing, and much more.

<https://carleton.ca/career/>

## **M. Student Wellness Services**

### **Health Services**

Our team of medical professionals including family physicians and registered nurses provide outpatient medical services and serve as primary care providers at Health and Counselling Services

<https://wellness.carleton.ca/health/health-clinic-services/>

### **Counselling Services**

Confidential personal counselling services are available for current Carleton University students

<https://wellness.carleton.ca/health/>

### **Health Promotion**

Our goal is to empower students during various stages of change for healthy living and academic success by offering resources, workshops and activities that cover student health and wellness

<https://wellness.carleton.ca/health-promotion/>

### **Athletics and Recreation Centre**

As a Carleton student you have access to fitness and recreational programming such as the pool, the fitness centre, and a variety of fitness programs.

<https://athletics.carleton.ca/campus-rec/>

## Appendices

### Appendix A – Copyright Agreement

#### Research Conduct and Intellectual Property Agreement

#### Agreement of Rights and Copyright

Typical of graduate programs, the HSTP MSc involves a research component or practicum placement. This agreement outlines responsibilities, expectations for professional conduct and for intellectual property associated with this research.

#### ***The (co)supervisors of HLTH 5506/5507 will:***

1. Establish relationships with the external partners/stakeholders participating in the projects.
2. Provide supervision and leadership of a graduate-level research project, including – where relevant- the ethics application and research proposal(s), data acquisition and analysis, development of the final report and knowledge dissemination activities, and establishing deadlines.
3. Endeavour to provide students with a broad range of opportunities that are intended to enhance your experience (e.g., learn new skills)

#### ***Students enrolled in HLTH 5506/5507 agree:***

1. To be prompt, courteous and respectful of the time and resources being provided by the (co)supervisors, external partners, study participants, co-workers, and your peers.
2. To act with responsibility and ethical integrity, and to ensure that no sensitive information related to the study/placement is disclosed, including but not limited to: participants', stakeholders' and team members' involvement in the research; data and information derived from the data or related to the project; communications related to the project (including, but not limited to, communications between the group members and supervisor(s)/partner(s), communications involving study participants).
3. To complete the assigned deliverables, where relevant- including the ethics application, research proposal, final report, and knowledge dissemination activities on schedule and in a professional manner.

Almost invariably, research projects/placements are an extension of, or directly related to, ongoing research, or from ideas of the supervisor(s) or collaborators (including affiliated faculty and external partners, placement supervisors). As well, the research being undertaken may be supported by resources or grants received by the research/placement supervisor(s), permitting the student to undertake related projects.

For research projects, the data plus any associated intellectual property obtained from or derived from these projects will remain the property of the university and of the research supervisor(s)

(unless otherwise agreed upon by external partners and the HSTP Program Director). Furthermore, the right to publish or present this material, as well as the right to select the order and inclusion of authors, will be determined by the research supervisor(s), based on the relative substantive contributions of individuals contributing to the project. The research supervisor(s) will include students in the authorship of publications as appropriate—that is, wherever substantive contributions have been made. Substantive contributions are defined as being involved in major portions of the research and include: the conception and study design, acquiring the data, data analysis and interpretation, drafting the manuscripts or critical revision of manuscript. All authors listed on the manuscript must have read and approved the final version of the manuscript submitted for publication. Similarly, all authors must have read and approved the final version of abstracts, posters and oral presentations submitted for presentation, and be provided the opportunity to comment on the contents of these well in advance of their submission deadlines. The contributions of community collaborators also need to be appropriately acknowledged, at the discretion of the supervisor in discussion with the group.

Provisional authorship of manuscript(s) should be discussed early, and revised, as appropriate, as the study progresses. If no agreement has been reached before the project is undertaken, it is agreed that the research supervisor(s) will be first and/or last authors (depending on disciplinary norms), and student authorship will be alphabetical thereafter. If the student/researcher's contribution to the final publication is less than that anticipated, or if substantive additional research (including data collection, analyses, and/or writing) is required prior to publication, then the authorship of the publication may be revised by the research supervisor(s). For example, an initial manuscript may be submitted and rejected by a journal and substantive revisions may be required before submitting elsewhere. Under such a scenario, authorship may need to be revised depending on the additional work performed.

If the student/researcher is first author, then it is expected that s/he will take primary responsibility for writing the document for submission for publication (and will take the lead responding to reviewers' comments before resubmission). Should this not be done in a timely fashion (within 6 months of final thesis report submission), then it becomes the prerogative of the research supervisor(s) to write the paper as first author or assign these duties to a third party as appropriate. However, the research supervisor (or external partner, where necessary) will be corresponding author on all manuscripts, unless otherwise decided by the faculty supervisor. REB protocols submit that ongoing projects must be renewed after one year—data access by team members will be re-evaluated at such intervals.

Paid technicians are *not* entitled to authorship. However, at the discretion of the faculty supervisor, if they contribute substantially to the research (meaning above and beyond simply following directives), then their name may be placed on the written document.

Likewise, in terms of knowledge dissemination activities involving the media, all requests by the student(s) for media/communications should be approved by the supervisor(s) before such requests are made, and the (co)-supervisor(s) must be copied on all correspondence with media contacts. Additionally, the supervisor(s) and community partners must approve what is being published/communicated before going to print or other types of communication media. In all cases, the (co)-supervisors, the Department of Health Sciences, and Carleton University must be cited as the primary institution affiliation (along with partners, if applicable, and if they provide consent to be identified).

By signing this letter, these conditions are agreed to by students and supervisor(s). Should the conditions change (e.g. additional data collection or analysis in order to prepare a manuscript for publication) that stem from the ideas and initiatives of the student(s) or research supervisor(s), then a revised, signed, agreement will be necessary.

Research supervisor(s) (print name(s)) \_\_\_\_\_

Research supervisor(s)  
(signature(s)) \_\_\_\_\_

Student (print name) \_\_\_\_\_

Student (signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix B –Project Guideline**

### **HLTH5507: HSTP Project Guidelines**

#### **Objective**

To carry out an interdisciplinary and/or community-engaged health research project that advances our knowledge on a health topic, to be determined in consultation with project supervisor(s) and relevant stakeholders and/or community partner(s).

#### **Deliverables**

- Communication strategy and team contract
- A comprehensive literature review of the research topic, done in such a way that it identifies a critically important research gap and provides a rationale for undertaking the project.
- Data collection and/or analyses and interpretation
- A final report (to include study background, rationale, hypothesis/objectives, results, conclusions)
- A final presentation to faculty, students, and relevant stakeholders (e.g., community partners)
- Knowledge dissemination products and activities as appropriate.

#### **Course Structure & Expectations**

Although HLTH5507 is a course, it is structured as a graduate-level research project. The students must work together and directly with their project supervisor(s), who will guide all stages of the project.

#### *Individual and Group Evaluation:*

- HLTH5507 students will be assessed based on their substantive contributions to the project. This includes attendance and participation in group meetings or meetings with supervisor. A letter grade will be assigned based on an individual student basis. At the discretion of the supervisor, we recommend that each group submit a progress report (1 page) on the last day of each month, outlining each group members' contributions over the previous month and challenges encountered. This report should also outline the activities that will occur over the following month.
- The final report will also include a section outlining each student's substantive contributions to the project from its initiation to completion (see final report guidelines for further details).
- The project represents graduate-level research among students who are enrolled in the HSTP on a full-time basis.
- While students are encouraged to publish their findings in peer-reviewed journals and/or present their findings at conferences or community-engagement events, these activities are not part of their formal evaluation. Such publications and presentations, however, must be

guided and approved by the supervisor(s) in advance, as well as appropriately acknowledge the supervisor(s), collaborators, Department of Health Sciences, and Carleton University.

#### *Data Security:*

- Given that the research is being done within the university context, and with the facilities provided by the University and/or partner, data and any associated intellectual property obtained or derived from these projects will remain the property of the University and of the research supervisor(s).
- It is the students' responsibility to ensure that data are kept confidential and secure. The security and privacy measures in place regarding data access and handling will be determined on a project-by-project basis in consultation with the supervisor and partner, and informed by ethics guidelines.
- The supervisor(s) (and partner, if required) must have, at all times, unrestricted access to all data, derivations of the data, analyses, outputs, and other documents related to the project, for continuity and oversight purposes.
- At all times, in accordance with REB guidelines, supervisors must be able to access all data. Further, upon completion of the project, and before a final grade can be assigned, all data must be turned over to the Department of Health Sciences and data documentation including a data dictionary must be created. At the discretion of the supervisor(s), arrangements may be made for the students to have continued access to the data, as needed on secure workstations within the department, to generate a paper for publication or produce data for presentation. Students are also responsible for abiding by the REB procedures for progress and closure reports as relevant.

#### *Communication:*

- Supervisors will meet regularly with students as required. Meetings will be scheduled based on the supervisor's availability, and the requirements of the research project. Whenever possible, emails will be answered within 48 hours of receipt (with the exception of weekends/holidays). Timelines for feedback on deliverables will be decided on by the faculty supervisor in consultation with the students.
- Group members should discuss their ideas and queries together as a group before contacting supervisor(s) to avoid multiple queries on the same topic. Ideally, each group will select one member of their group through which all communication with the external partner(s) will flow.
- Each group will select one member of their research team to communicate via email with the project's external community partners. The supervisor must be copied on all emails to the external partner for continuity. The supervisor and group should determine, ahead of time, whether the group needs to inform the supervisor of their intent to contact the partner prior to doing so. This will avoid unnecessary contact with the external partners and show respect for the partner's time.

- Communications about the project should never be carried out in public forums (such as, but not limited to, Facebook and Twitter). Given the potentially sensitive nature of the data and partnerships, the group must keep security and privacy at the forefront of their minds at all times when discussing the project, data, partners, other group members and previous communications. This also ensures that discussions remain professional and between participants of the project only.
- The point of contact for all media/dissemination should be the supervisor, and the (co)-supervisor(s) must be copied on all correspondence with media contacts. If any media/communications outlet/person contacts the group, they should be directed to the supervisor. All media and dissemination activities must be approved by the supervisor(s) before students make any such requests of media contacts. The supervisor and community partner, if required, must have final approval on all materials, media, and or/dissemination products **prior** to their publication/release/communication. In all cases, the (co)-supervisors, the Department of Health Sciences, and Carleton University must be acknowledged as the primary institution affiliation (along with partners, if applicable, and if they wish to be identified).

### **Instructional Offences**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of "F" for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

## **Appendix C –Project Final Report Writing**

### **HLTH 5507 HSTP Project Report Writing**

#### **Final Report Guidelines**

The specific style of your final report will be decided upon in consultation with your supervisor(s), and may take the form of a manuscript (in preparation for publication) or thesis; however, it should always include the following sections:

##### **Title**

Should be informative and interesting, and concisely capture the objective of the project.

##### **Key Words**

5 to 8 key words relevant to the topic under study.

##### **Abstract or Executive Summary**

Briefly explain the necessary background, methodology, research findings, and take-home message for a specialist (Abstract) or non-specialist (Executive Summary) readership, to be determined in consultation with project supervisors:

- Stand alone summary of research project in its entirety
- Questions to consider: What did you do? Why did you do it? What were you trying to answer? How did you do it? What are the key findings? What did you learn? Why does it matter? What is the significance? What is next?
- Do not include reference citations in Abstract.
- Maximum 300 words.

##### **Introduction**

The introduction should often start by focusing on the “big picture” and provides an overview of the topic being reviewed. The introduction should end with a short paragraph that describes the aim of the review paper and the hypothesis that you will be defending. Please make sure to indicate why the subject is important, and why you are writing about it now:

- Provides a clear, comprehensive summary of relevant literature.
- Gaps in knowledge are clearly described, and how the project fills gap(s) is described.
- Ends with very clear research question(s), rationale, and objectives for study.
- Hypotheses are clearly defined.

##### **Methods**

The main objective of the Method section is to carefully outline the procedural and measurement information of your study (as applicable):

- Ethics approval statement included and highlights of any relevant processes (e.g., maintaining confidentiality, etc.)
- Methodology is appropriate given the research question(s).
- Sampling procedure and/or sample size calculation and/or rationale for population of study and/or use of existing datasets is appropriate.
- Data collection method including instrument(s) and tools are appropriate.
- Data cleaning/processing methods are adequately described and appropriate.
- Description of statistical or other methods used.
- Description of sample information (e.g., recruitment, demographics, compensation), procedural information, and descriptions of measures/assessment tools (with full measures in appendices)
- Survey instruments should be provided in an appendix.

## **Results**

The Results section should present the findings of your analyses in detail, with specific reference to your research questions and hypotheses:

- Analyses are appropriate given the research question(s).
- Results are clearly described.
- Main analyses are presented in a logical order.
- Results are presented with accurate tables and/or figures when possible; each figure and table should be referenced in the text.
- Supporting data and/or analyses should be presented in an appendix.
- Ensure that no personal identifiable information of participants is presented.

## **Discussion**

The main objective of Discussion section is to interpret the results, “telling the story” of the study in the context of previous research, rather than repeating Results section:

- Discussion of findings follows logical flow, from brief summary of study and arguments that are relevant to the original hypothesis/research question, those that are relevant to the hypothesis but may need further experimentation and/or clarification, and those incidental results that may not be relevant to the original hypothesis but sufficiently new or interesting to warrant discussing.
- Discussion integrates the current literature, i.e., findings are interpreted in the context of other studies; literature review is not repeated, but rather how findings compare to other

studies and some commentary to explain differences/similarities and/or what gaps are filled by the study's findings.

- Limitations are acknowledged and addressed, balanced with the study's strengths, and consistent with the methodology, i.e., small sample size; administration of data collection did not go as planned; discussion of potential biases.
- Practical applications and/or implications, conclusions, and recommendations for further study the field are suggested.

### **Knowledge Dissemination**

- Evidence of knowledge dissemination to stakeholders/community partners/public (e.g., presentations, infographics, etc.).
- Appropriateness for audience and clearly linked to research findings.
- Recommendations for knowledge dissemination implications.

### **Individuals' Contributions**

- Section detailing who contributed to the various aspects of the project and final report, and in what manner, are specified (e.g., who designed the study, prepared or collected data, performed experiments, analyzed data, interpreted results, wrote or edited the final paper?).

### **Acknowledgements**

- Section detailing contributions of external partners, and collaborators to the project

### **Figures**

- Should always have a short, explanatory title to preface the legend.
- Legends must fully, but succinctly, explain the figure without reference to the text. This includes a description of any acronyms used, citations where relevant, and other appropriate footnoting.

### **Tables**

- Require a single-sentence title.
- Abbreviations and full explanations should be given in a brief legend to the table.

### **References**

- Please concentrate on seminal references as well as recent papers, including peer reviewed journal articles, government reports, grey literature, etc.
- References must be formatted in accordance with the guidelines set out by your supervisor(s), as per disciplinary norms.

- Whenever possible, reference original materials (rather than other papers that reference the original).

**Your written work will be evaluated by your supervisor(s).**

## **Appendix D – Elective Practicum Placement FAQ (HLTH 5801)**

This practicum supports students in gaining relevant and practical experience through applying course learning at approved organizations. Students are responsible for arranging the placement with an external partner where the practicum will be held, preparing a learning contract, and completing a field-based project deliverable and final report. Students must complete a minimum of 100 hours and a maximum of 150 hours to complete the practicum as well as meeting expectations of the placement supervisor.

*What is the purpose of this practicum?*

This practicum supports students in gaining relevant and practical experience through applying course learning at approved organizations. Students must complete a minimum of 100 hours and a maximum of 150 hours to complete the practicum as well as meeting expectations of the placement supervisor.

*What are the required/requested qualifications of the practicum site supervisor?*

A supervisor should be experienced in the area of supervision and be available to mentor the student over the duration of the practicum – including weekly check-ins with the student.

*What is the role of the practicum site supervisor?*

Site supervisors should be able to mentor students; assist in preparing the learning contract (reviewing/revising what the student has drafted) and agreeing upon a field-based project deliverable at the start of the practicum term; provide a final evaluation of the student; contacting HSTP Program Director to discuss any issues.

*How is the student evaluated/what is the role of the supervisor and what is the organization required to submit?*

Students are expected to produce an agreed upon field-based project deliverable(s) for the organization. The student is evaluated based on the interim and final evaluation reports and their final report submitted to the HSTP Program Director.

*How are practicums arranged?*

Students are responsible for arranging the placement themselves with guidance from the HSTP Program Director. Students must prepare a learning contract, and complete a field-based project deliverable and final report. If a placement occurs at a site where the student already works or volunteers, there must be clear delineation between past work and the proposed deliverable of the placement. Any potential conflicts of interest (such as working with a family member or an organization they already have affiliations with) must be disclosed and addressed with the HSTP Program Director prior to initiation of placement.

### *Can organizations request students?*

Organizations can send their requests to host an HSTP student to the Graduate Administrator and the details of the elective will be shared with our eligible graduate cohort.

### *Where can the practicum placement take place?*

The placement can be with a government organization, NGO, company, or community group that does health, policy, or research work. Examples of possible placement sites can be Health Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Canada National Institute of the Blind, St. Mary's Home, Hospital Research Institutes, and Ottawa Community Housing. The work done on the placement must be of an academic nature and advance student skill sets; this includes research, intellectual skills development, knowledge translation training, advocacy training and so on.

### *Are there considerations for paid versus unpaid placements?*

Students *may or may not* be paid for the work they do on the placement. The required documentation will vary depending on payment status (students who will not be paid are required to complete the "unpaid placements letter to placement employers" and "unpaid placements student declaration of understanding and agreement" forms).

### *How many course credits is the placement worth?*

HLTH 5801 practicum placement is a half- credit course which is supervised by someone on site at the host organization and overseen by the HSTP Program Director.

### *Do I require a learning contract?*

Students must co-develop a develop a learning contract aligned with their own interests through which they are able to explore some of the practical implications of what they have learned and are learning. A placement in HSTP offers a unique opportunity for both students and host organizations.

### *When and how should students search for a placement site?*

Students should start looking for a host organization for the placement as early as possible. Students may begin their practicum placement starting in third semester of the program. If a placement occurs at a site where the student already works or volunteers, there must be clear delineation between past work and the proposed deliverable of the placement. Any potential conflicts of interest (such as working with a family member or an organization they already have affiliations with) must be declared and addressed with the HSTP Program Director prior to initiation of placement.

### *Who can students consult with about the practicum placement?*

Students should consult with the HSTP Program Director before starting to look for a host organization. The most important thing at this point is to confirm that the type of placement being

sought is appropriate and to clarify the expectations of the course and the requirements for the student. Students will need to research organizations that do the kind of work that they are interested in exploring for the practicum placement. The student will need to contact the organizations to determine if they are willing to take a practicum student.

This is an optional course, so the onus is solely on the student to make it happen. The student is responsible for seeking the practicum opportunity and receiving approvals.

*Creating the Learning Objectives and deliverable(s) of the placement:*

Students are responsible for adding their agreed upon learning objectives to the provided course syllabus. The student will be responsible for discussing the project deliverable with the host organization supervisor the tasks that they will be doing in their placement.

Placement Description: basic information describing the placement, including location, placement supervisor and the purpose and goals of the placement as an academic learning experience

Learning Objectives: a list of the knowledge and skills that will be acquired or developed through the placement and clear deliverables for the placement. The syllabus must be approved by the placement supervisor and the HSTP Program Director.

*Course Registration and Approval Process:* Once the student has completed the course syllabus, learning contact and any other necessary paperwork from the site organization, the student must send all documents to the HSTP Program Director for approval. Upon approval, the documents must be emailed to the Graduate and Departmental Administrator who will process an override request so that the student can register for HLTH 5801 through Carleton Central. This process must be complete no later than 2 business days prior to the last day registration for the given term  
<https://carleton.ca/registration/academic-dates/>

*How is the evaluation for the practicum placement determined?*

The HSTP Program Director enters a standard letter grade based on the evaluation of the site supervisor and completion of the final report.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE CONTACT:**

Graduate and Departmental Administrator, Claire MacArthur [Claire.Macarthur@carleton.ca](mailto:Claire.Macarthur@carleton.ca) or HSTP Program Director: Dr. Francine Darroch [Francine.darroch@carleton.ca](mailto:Francine.darroch@carleton.ca)

## **Appendix E: Practicum Pathway (Field Research and Placement)**

The practicum pathway allows students to gain experience by completing *two 12-week practicums* (a 12 week practicum is the equivalent of 420 hours i.e., equivalent of 35 hours per week for 12 weeks) at an appropriate organization (e.g. public health unit, provincial or federal governmental agency or non-governmental organization). You will work with the HSTP Program Director and Graduate Administrator to find a practicum to align with your interests and career goals to apply your knowledge and skills in a professional setting. The practicum must be completed on a full-time basis over two- terms of the program.

### **Course Description**

- The practicum provides an opportunity for students to apply the theory and knowledge gained in coursework to new projects and experiences in professional settings.
- Students must have a qualified practicum supervisor, and all projects must be approved by the HSTP Program Director
- Students must successfully complete the fall and winter courses (HLTH 5100, HLTH 5150, HLTH 5201 HLTH 5300, HLTH 5350, HLTH 5402) prior to initiating a practicum placement
- Throughout the practicum, it is essential for students to reflect on and record their experiences and to engage in regular discussions with their practicum supervisor about their practicum progress.

### **Practicum (Field Research and Placement) Pathway Objectives**

In collaboration with the practicum supervisor the student will establish their own practicum objectives. The objectives are negotiated prior to initiation of the practicum. Generally, the student will:

- Enhance core Health: Science, Technology and Policy competencies
- Undertake work/projects that are relevant to the student's objectives, areas of interest and supervisor's needs and objectives.
- Experience hands on application of course work through participation in work activities of partner health focused organization.

## FAQ's

### How do I find a practicum?

Students are responsible for their practicum search with support from the HSTP Program Director and Graduate Administrator. The HSTP Program Director will post practicums as they become available.

Once the practicum has been secured, students will work with the practicum supervisor to complete a learning contract.

The practicum is a mandatory component of HSTP Practicum pathway and can be initiated after all core coursework is complete.

Students are encouraged to ask themselves the following questions as they prepare for their practicum search:

- What are my career aspirations?
- How will my practicum help me develop knowledge and skills relevant to this career direction?
- What competencies would I like to develop through my practicum?
- What type of organizations am I interested in for my practicum?
- Do I have any connections or networks with any of these organizations?

### Are practicum placements graded?

Students will be evaluated (and a letter grade will be recorded) by the practicum site supervisor and the HSTP Program Director (evaluation details to be determined).

### Can practicums be paid?

Stipends or payment may be available at some practicum sites, but it is not guaranteed. Unfortunately, not all agencies are able to pay students.

**Where have students completed practicums?** While the Practicum Pathway is a new option for HSTP students in the 2024-2026 cohort, past students have completed elective placements at the following organizations:

- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Health Canada
- Queensway Carleton Hospital
- Office of International Affairs Health Portfolio
- Carleton University Accessibility Institute
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind
- Can Immunize

## Appendix F: Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools in Research

*This document is an internal draft and will be updated over time. Motivated by ongoing discussions in the Department of Health Sciences at Carleton University, draft guidance on Generative AI policy by the Carleton University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and a few external guidance documents (links below). **If there are any questions about the below, consult with your supervisor(s) and follow their lead.***

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### Requirements:

1. Discuss with your supervisor any use of generative and non-generative AI (genAI and non-genAI, respectively) tools. Examples of genAI include ChatGPT, Copilot, Google Gemini, Claude, Perplexity, etc., while an example of non-genAI is legacy Grammarly features (for proof checking; does not alter your ideas and logic). Note that Grammarly also has optional generative AI features, which produce **new** content and alters your ideas.
  2. **Research output (thesis, paper, presentation, etc.) cannot be written with genAI tools.**
  3. As a default, use of genAI tools should be pre-approved by the supervisor with a clear scope in writing prior to their use. Failure to do this and passing off a genAI's output as your own will violate this policy and would be considered an academic integrity offence (Carleton's academic integrity policy can be accessed at <https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy-2021.pdf>).
  4. Similar to how journals require citation of statistical software used, or acknowledgement of medical writers' efforts, genAI tools **must** be clearly acknowledged/declared in submitted work (e.g., thesis) in consultation with your supervisor. For example, Elsevier suggests the following:  
*Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process: **During the preparation of this work, the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.***
  5. The final responsibility of new ideas, verification of research output, literature review/synthesis, writing, etc., rests with you (the trainee), and you must be able to defend the work submitted with their name on it. AI tools, when used, should be used ethically and critically.
-

## Context and Rationale:

- Types of AI tools: What has come to be known as artificial intelligence (AI) software is separated in this document loosely into generative vs. non-generative AI (genAI vs non-genAI, respectively). Generative AI is often **incorrectly** perceived as a) more accurate than it is and b) can be used as a computational substitute proxy worker (see View of journals below).

Note that most genAI tools are based on black box models, and while extremely sophisticated, there is less control on outputs as compared to a statistical tool that gives estimates based on more easily understandable calculations. As a result, AI software is prone to hallucinations [making up non-existent “sources/facts”]. Moreover, early genAI tools were noted to have similar biases/prejudices as the data they were trained on. An AI output is not something that can be considered a scientific citation (although you are required to declare the use of such tools). It is the user’s responsibility to verify (Is it plausible? Is it accurate? Can you find other sources of information that help verify?) any output from genAI used at any stage of research.

In comparison, non-generative AI helps reduce mistakes and/or increase the quality of an output, e.g., proofing, making figures based on discipline and research-specific data that trainees prompted with, etc.

- Legality and ethics: There are multiple ongoing legal cases against the companies that market genAI tools, whether free or paid. There are emerging alternatives, e.g., Adobe Firefly, which were intended to be commercially safe, but questions have arisen there given the use of competitor’s AI tools being used to train those models as well. **Much of the data generated in research is proprietary, and in the case of human data, subject to additional confidentiality protections, which are not met when uploading data to genAI tools.** Also note that many of the generative AI tools use the data uploaded for further training. **Hence, anything with personal information (transcripts, CVs with personal identifying information), and non-open-access protected intellectual works should not be uploaded to genAI tools.**
- View of journals: See the bibliography for two links. The common theme is that AI cannot assume responsibilities and there is no guarantee of the veracity of AI-produced materials. Generative AI tools cannot be a co-author on manuscripts, so the responsibility rests on the human researcher/user of such tools.
- There is little doubt that AI tools will play a tremendous role in research in the future as a tool, but there is a lot that is currently uncertain.

- In any process of idea generation, organization, or conducting of research, building expertise, critical judgement, and novel ideas are key, and research conducted that overly relies on AI tools at the expense of the development of such abilities misses the standard that trainees in the Department of Health Sciences should aspire to. This includes the first draft/outline and ideation phase; the concern here being delegating a first draft/outline to AI misses the point that struggling with how to write/organize/draft leads to deeper understanding, both in the short (research topic) and long (expertise in the field) terms. With that in mind, this is a living document that will be continually edited and updated to respond to advances in AI.

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