



# **GPS: A Roadmap for Graduate Professional Skills Development**

**Graduate Professional Skills Program** 



The Graduate Professional Skills Program (GPS) is comprised of a variety of professional development offerings from program partners across all three campuses.



The program partners provide all graduate students with an opportunity to develop a full range of optional opportunities for professional skills development.

The School of Graduate Studies launched GPS on May 11, 2009.



#### Background

- Majority of PhDs now work outside academe
- Requirements for a career in academe are changing
- Wide recognition of need
- Student demand, present availability of offerings
- Advantages in visibility, organization
- Value of a institutionally-approved program



#### The GPS Program provides:

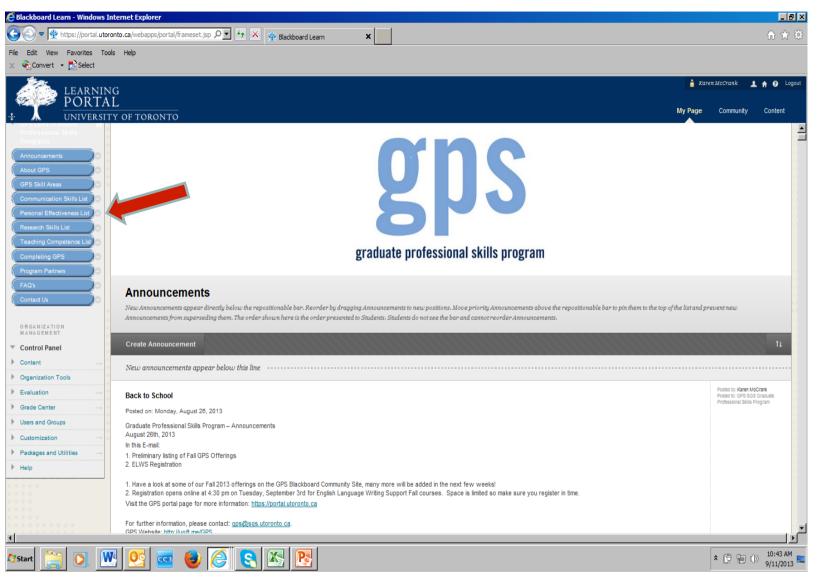
- A coordinated, structured approach to graduate professional skills development on-campus
- Skills beyond those learned in a disciplinary program
- A focus is on areas such as communication skills, technological skills, ethics in research, career planning, effective time management, working effectively in teams, leadership skills
- An institutional-level quality control
- Official recognition: transcript notation



#### About GPS – For Students

- GPS is optional. Students register through portal community/blackboard and sign up for newsletter
- Offerings are open to all graduate students
- Students enroll in available offerings through individual Program Partners
- Students track own progress through the program
- Successful GPS completion will be noted on a student's official transcript
- An SGS Curriculum Committee (GPSCC) oversees GPS and considers program offering proposals









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#### **Professional Development**

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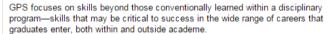
Program Completion

Enhance Your Experience

- Graduate Professional Development (GPD)
- Graduate Professional Skills Program (GPS)
- Grad Room

#### **Graduate Professional Skills (GPS) Program**

The Graduate Professional Skills (GPS) program, an initiative of the School of Graduate Studies, is designed to help all graduate students become fully prepared for their future.



gps

graduate professional skills program

The program can help you to communicate better, plan and manage your time, learn entrepreneurial skills, understand and apply ethical practices, and work effectively in teams and as leaders.

GPS consists of a range of optional "offerings" with a time commitment roughly equivalent to 60 hours of work. Its successful completion will be recognized by a transcript notation.

Subscribe to our newsletter for GPS Program updates.

- + Getting Started
- Upcoming Offerings
- + List of GPS Offerings by Skill Area
- + Completing GPS
- + Program Partners
- ent (GPD)

  Frequently Asked Questions
  - + Contact

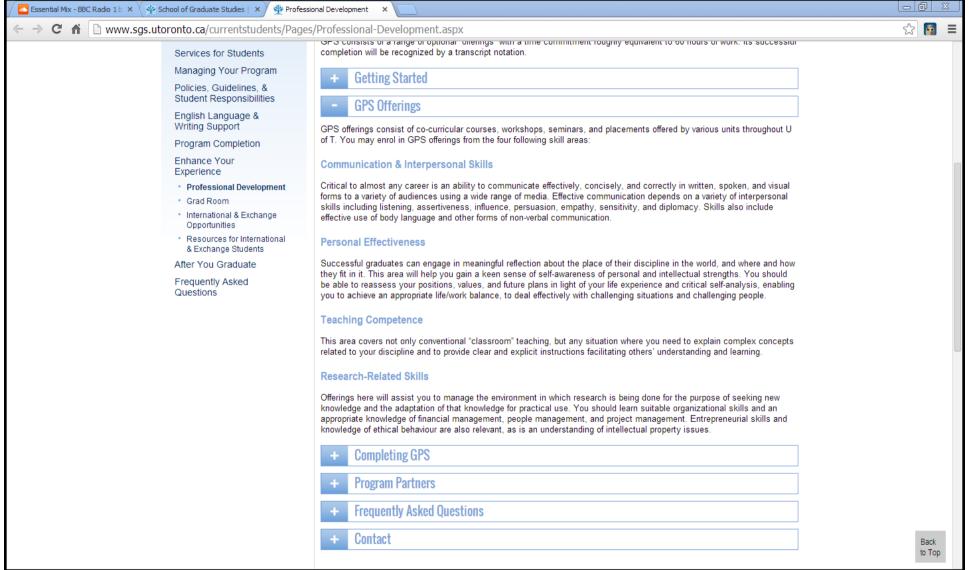






# **Grad Room & GPS News**







# **Core Competencies**

- o Becoming a Professional MITACS, Career Centre
- o Managing multiple responsibilities –Family Care Office
- o Applying for grants and funding -ELWS
- o Developing teaching skills –TATP, THE500, Let's Talk Science
- o Developing research skills –U of T Libraries
- o Developing writing- ELWS
- o Presenting at conferences -ELWS
- o Publishing in journals –U of T Libraries
- o Developing professional skills and acumen –Leadership Development, MITACS, GMCA
- o Career Exploration and Education—Career Centre



#### About GPS – Tracking and Completion

- Completion of GPS requires 20 GPS Credits (roughly equivalent to one half of a full academic course time commitment).
- 5 GPS Credits must be completed in each of 3 of 4 skill areas:
  - > Communication and Interpersonal Skills
  - > Teaching Competence
  - > Personal Effectiveness
  - > Research-Related Skills
- The remaining 5 GPS Credits may be completed in any skill area(s).



Research Related Skills		GPS Credit
ELWS	Understanding the Research Article: Reading towards Writing (for Non-Native Speakers of English)	
Library	Researching Journals Online for Faculty and Graduate Students in the Humanities and Social Sciences	
	Total	5
Teaching	Competence	
WW	THE 500: Teaching in Higher Education	4
Let's Talk Science	Science With Impact	1
	Total	5
Personal I	Effectiveness	
ELWS	Oral Presentation Skills (for Non-Native Speakers of English)	4
SLPS	Connecting Leadership Theory to Practice	1
	Total	5
Communi	cation and Interpersonal Skills	
FCO	"Stuck in the Middle": Managing Multiple Responsibilities	1
GMCA	Mini MBA	4
	Total	5
	Total GPS Credits	20



- GPS Curriculum Committee Composition
  - ➤ SGS, Program partners, Graduate students, Graduate faculty
- Establishes appropriate criteria for inclusion of offerings
- Reviews and approves proposed GPS offerings
- Ensures graduate students receive appropriate and highest quality professional skills competencies
- Provides a forum for discussion and recommendation to
   SGS on all matters pertaining to the GPS Program



#### Campus Program Partners include:

Academic Support Centre, Career Centre (St. George Campus, UTM), Counselling and Psychological Services, English Language and Writing Support, Family Care Office, Hart House, Leadership Development Programs, Office of Student Life, University of Toronto Libraries (St. George, UTM), Office of Research Ethics, Teaching Assistants' Training Program, UTM Academic Skills Centre, UTSC Centre for Teaching & Learning, Academic Advising and Career Centre, Woodsworth College

#### External Program Partner:

> MITACS

#### Student Program Partners:

- ➤ Let's Talk Science
- Graduate Management Consulting Association



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Grad Room: www.sgs.utoronto.ca/gradroom

Graduate Professional Skills: www.sgs.utoronto.ca/gps

