

25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH (1967-1992)

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The year 1992 marks another important anniversary for the University of Ottawa, the 25th anniversary of the founding of the School of Graduate Studies and Research. This milestone is an opportunity to briefly recount the history of graduate studies at the University, a history that started well before the establishment of the School of Graduate Studies in 1967.

In 1875, the College of Ottawa conferred its first master's degree, on lawyer Thomas Foran. A few years earlier, he had also received the first bachelor's awarded by the college. At the time, the process to receive a master's was very simple. Candidates who wished to receive a master's had to make a request to the college's superior two years after receiving their bachelor's. If the superior felt you were a serious candidate, he gave you the degree you asked for. In 1888, the University awarded its first doctorate in law to Judge Louis-Adolphe Olivier.ⁱ The first Faculty of Law closed at the end of the 1890s.

The Faculty of Arts only started offering graduate programs in 1932.ⁱⁱ A new phase began in 1949, with the establishment of the Graduate School.ⁱⁱⁱ The new school was an association of faculties, school and institutes that joined together to develop and coordinate the different sections of graduate studies at the University.^{iv} It was led by a council of faculty deans and school and institute directors.

In the early 1960s, the University ranked third among Canadian universities for the number of PhD theses accepted and sixth for the total number of master's and PhD theses.^v What's more, it ranked first for the number of PhDs in psychology, education and political science. In 1962–1963, there were 580 graduate students, out of a student population of 3,520.^{vi}

Reorganization of Graduate Studies

In 1962, in light of the considerable expansion of the graduate sector, the Administrative Committee took a first step towards a major reorganization of graduate studies at the University. It asked Louis Dugal, dean of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, to conduct an in-depth study of the workings of Canadian graduate schools, with an eye towards restructuring ours.^{vii} In March 1964, Dr. Dugal submitted a plan to establish a body to coordinate graduate studies at the University.^{viii}

In 1965, following the Dugal report, the Senate established the Committee on the Reorganization of Graduate Studies.^{ix} In March 1967, the committee, chaired by Maurice Chagnon, vice-rector academic, presented its report, which recommended a complete reorganization of graduate studies at the University. The Senate accepted this recommendation and established the School of Graduate Studies that same year. Program

management, which had been the responsibility of the faculties, would now be handled by the new school.

The School of Graduate Studies had to develop regulations and procedures for master's and PhD programs and make sure that the programs met the highest quality standards. This turned out to be very complicated, and the school only began operations at the end of 1969. Dr. Paul Hagen, a biochemist, became the first dean. The school had 1,000 full-time students.^x The majority were registered in master's programs, with only 303 in PhD programs.^{xi} Moreover, women only made up 30% of the student population.^{xii}

Despite considerable research activity at the University of Ottawa, the Commission on the Revision of Teaching and Research Structures (the Carrier Commission) mentioned serious gaps in this area in its 1975 Strategy for Change report. It noted that the University had no mechanism to periodically assess the quality and relevance of the research conducted.

In 1978, in light of the structures commission's recommendations, the School of Graduate Studies became the School of Graduate Studies and Research. To better promote and oversee this area of the University, the school was asked to draft a research policy. It was also made responsible for managing the University's general research fund.

As well, the Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française, which had been part of the Faculty of Arts since its establishment in 1958, became a research unit within the school. The CRCCF focuses on all aspects of French-language culture in Canada. Recently, it fell under the purview of the vice-rector academic.

In 1983, Dean Hagen, who had led the school for 15 years, left. The building at 115 Séraphin Marion (the former École normale), home to the School of Graduate Studies and Research, is named after him. In 1989, Nicole Bégin-Heick became the first woman to lead the school.

Under the authority of the Senate, the School of Graduate Studies and Research is now administered by a council that oversees three commissions. The commissions on graduate studies in the sciences and the humanities are responsible for master's and PhD programs, while the Research Commission looks after the distribution of University research funds.

As well, the school develops strategies for providing financial assistance to students. Among other things, it offers scholarships aimed at recruiting the best students.

In the early 1980s, the University of Ottawa and Carleton University began to establish joint graduate programs in areas where the interests and capacities of the two schools complemented each other. This was especially true in science and engineering. The collaboration between the two universities has only served to reinforce the excellent reputation of the School of Graduate Studies and Research. This reputation undoubtedly explains why the school currently offers the second largest number of PhD programs in Ontario.

On November 1, 1991, 1,808 students were registered full time and 1,905 were registered part time^{xiii} in some 80 graduate programs. Most graduate programs are offered in French and in English.

In brief, over a quarter of a century, the School of Graduate Studies and Research has awarded thousands of master's and PhDs and overseen the management of hundreds of research projects, worth over \$50 million for 1990-1991 alone. In this anniversary year, we can only wish for the school to continue to contribute to the outstanding growth of the University of Ottawa, as it has for 25 years.

TABLE I
NAMES OF THE SCHOOL SINCE ITS FOUNDING

1. School of Graduate Studies 1967-1978
2. School of Graduate Studies and Research 1978-

TABLE II
LIST OF DEANS

1. Paul Hagen 1968-1983
2. Pierre Laberge 1983-1989
3. Nicole Bégin-Heick 1989-

TABLE III
NUMBER OF DEGREES AWARDED

	Maîtrise	Doctorats
1958	75	20
1959	54	25
1960	73	24
1961	84	31
1962	89	31
1963	105	37
1964	139	45
1965	179	51
1966	206	54
1967	179	53
1968	161	42
1969	317	60
1970	510	71
1971	660	55
1972	707	54
1973	684	79
1974	639	63
1975	612	61
1976	593	57

1977	666	80
1978	598	79
1979	555	78
1980	526	67
1981	534	68
1982	572	61
1983	551	55
1984	510	40
1985	516	55
1986	566	54
1987	563	76
1988	524	70

ⁱ AUO, Fonds 77, College of Ottawa Prospectus, 1888-1889, p. 126.

ⁱⁱ ii. Graduate arts courses appear for the first time in the 1932-1933 Faculty of Arts calendar.

ⁱⁱⁱ AUO, Fonds 261, Administrative Committee minutes, July 29, 1049.

^{iv} AUO, Fonds 76, Department of Public Relations and Information, file X2076-010.

^v Fonds 6, Communiqué du 22-1-1963. Dossier École des études supérieures, n.b. 1305.

^{vi} Loc. cit.

^{vii} AUO, Fonds 6, Ibid.

^{viii} AUO, Fonds 128, Committee on the Reorganization of Graduate Studies, Projet de fondation d'un organisme destiné à assurer la coordination des divers enseignements supérieurs à l'Université d'Ottawa, March 11, 1964.

^{ix} AUO, Fonds 2, Senate, Résolution 3.57.

^x Fonds 56, Statistiques étudiantes, 1969-1970, p. 76.

^{xi} Loc. cit.

^{xii} Ibid., p. 71.

^{xiii} Fonds 6, Coup d'oeil, January 1, 1992.