

The graduate program in Biochemistry (<http://www.biochem.uwo.ca/grad/default.html>) has been in existence since the arrival of Dr. R.J. Rossiter as Department Head in 1947. The program originally focused on lipid research and has since expanded through several phases of faculty recruitment and through diversification of research into new fields of investigation. At present, the program is composed of 40 members with supervisory privileges and about 80 graduate students. Research laboratories of participating members are located within Western University and its affiliated Institutions including Robarts Research Institute, Lawson Health Research Institute, the Child Health Research Institute and the London Regional Cancer Program.

Faculty in the Department of Biochemistry have active and productive research programs that have direct or translational aspects related to health sciences. The environment both on campus and at satellite facilities offers graduate students an exceptional training environment which provides ample scientific and career development opportunities.

Until 2014, the program offered a traditional Master's program (thesis-based) leading to the degree of MSc and a doctoral program leading to the degree of PhD. In 2012, they introduced an Accelerated MSc program which facilitates early registration and an anticipated early completion of the thesis-based Master's. In 2015, they introduced an additional option for the Master's program, a one-year Non-thesis MSc program. This is a course-based MSc program that includes two streams, a research-based individual project stream and a non-research collaborative project option. Currently (Sept, 2017), there are 35 students enrolled in the thesis-based MSc program, 14 in the Non-thesis, and 36 in the PhD program.

The learning outcomes were presented in a clear and cohesive manner and were appropriately

- Tailor the graduate course offerings to increase the opportunities for developing written competency skills.
 - The program response indicates they have adequately addressed this, i.e., “Developing written competency skills is one of the priorities of our graduate program. We have a Writing Course that specifically teaches writing skills. Up to now, this course has been offered in the Fall Semester. We plan to offer this Writing course in both the Fall and the Winter Semesters to accommodate all the student requests starting next academic year (2018-19). In addition, 5 other courses have learning outcomes that include communication skills and have a writing component (9511Q, 9606S, 9516S, 9500R, 9505R), and both the Ideas to Innovation and the Advanced Research Project Course include a major writing component.”
- Move away from an exam-based approach for performance assessment for students undertaking a thesis-based graduate program.
 - Again, the program has addressed this comment. Specifically, “The large majority of our