

GS 505 – Frequently asked questions

What is GS 505?

An interdisciplinary graduate course provides supervised opportunities for students to work on applied research projects in collaboration with the provincial Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

How is GS505 delivered?

The course is fully ONLINE and SYNCHRONOUS - students meet as a group EVERY TUESDAY AFTERNOON via Zoom with the course instructor and coordinator to discuss topics in civically engaged and critically informed research.

Can I choose a topic that relates to my MA or Ph.D.?

Before the course starts - research questions and projects are generated by policy stakeholders/project sponsors in different branches of MCFD and refined in collaboration with the UVic course instructor and coordinator to ensure that research projects are relevant and timely for the Ministry and can be completed by students within a 12-week course timeline. Following an initial orientation to all of the projects with project sponsors – students are assigned a project which, as far as possible, aligns with their research interests. Students work closely with their Ministry sponsor/staff to plan, conduct, and present a research-informed project.

What are the course deliverables?

ASSIGNMENTS/RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	PERCENTAGE
1. Scope of Work	15%
2. Mid-Point Visual Mind Map	10%
3. Draft of Executive Summary	20%
4. Mock MCFD Project Presentation	—
5. MCFD Project Presentation	25%
6. Final Report	30%
TOTAL	100%

Can I use my report towards my degree?

All projects are completed within one semester and focus on text-based research methods to generate a knowledge product that addresses the research question(s) and can be used by MCFD and may be used by students as part of their own graduate research project/thesis.

Want to register or have a specific question about GS 505?

Contact the Course Coordinator Amber Lowdermilk alowdermilk@uvic.ca

