

HUMAN GENETICS (PH.D.)

Offered by: Human Genetics (Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences)

Degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Program Description

Candidates entering Ph.D. 1 must complete at least three years of full-time resident study (six terms). The normal and expected duration of the Ph.D. program is four to five years. A student who has obtained a master's degree at McGill in a related field, or at an approved institution elsewhere, and is proceeding in the same subject toward a Ph.D. degree may, upon the recommendation of the Graduate Training Committee, enter at the Ph.D. 2 level.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Thesis

A thesis for the doctoral degree must constitute original scholarship and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge. It must show familiarity with previous work in the field and must demonstrate ability to plan and carry out research, organize results, and defend the approach and conclusions in a scholarly manner. The research presented must meet current standards of the discipline; as well, the thesis must clearly demonstrate how the research advances knowledge in the field. Finally, the thesis must be written in compliance with norms for academic and scholarly expression and for publication in the public domain.

Required Courses (3 credits)

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
HGEN 692	Human Genetics.	3
HGEN 701	Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination.	0

Complementary Courses (15 credits)

(15 credits or 6 credits depending on admission status as described above.)

Courses are to be chosen from the list below and/or from among 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses offered in the Faculties of Medicine and Science.

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Course	Title	Credits
HGEN 660	Genetics and Bioethics.	3
HGEN 661	Population Genetics.	3
HGEN 663	Beyond the Human Genome.	3
HGEN 693	Using Bioinformatics Resources.	3
HGEN 695	Psychiatric Genetics.	3

HGEN 696	Advanced Readings in Genetics 1.	3
HGEN 697	Advanced Readings in Genetics 2.	3
HGEN 698	Advanced Readings in Genetics 3.	3
HGEN 699	Advanced Readings in Genetics 4.	3

Students are restricted to taking the following course.

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Course	Title	Credits
HGEN 670	Advances in Human Genetics 1.	3

Note: The Graduate Advisory Committee may stipulate additional coursework depending on the background of the candidate.