

# Graduate Project and Thesis Supervision

- Guideline, Practice and Lessons Learned

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May 24, 2016

# Outline

- Guiding Principles
- The Perspectives
- Lessons Learned

# Guiding Principles

- Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (2008)
- Athabasca University – Faculty of Graduate Studies
- The MScIS Program - School of Computing and Information Systems

# CAGS - Institutions

- Timely Identify A Supervisor
- Early Establish Supervisory Committees
- Clearly “Contract”
- Readily Access

# CAGS - Supervisors

- Professional Relationship
- Intellectual Debate and Challenge
- Be Mentors
- Make IP and Authorship Clear
- Resolve Conflicts in Lower Level Possible

# CAGS - Students

- Continuity
- Alternative Supervision
- Substantial Responsibility

# AU- FGS

- Graduate Handbook

<http://fgs.athabascau.ca/handbook/index.php>

# MScIS Program-SCIS

- Handbook for MSc IS Project

<http://mscis.athabascau.ca/resources/handbook-mscis-projects.php>

- Handbook for MSc IS Thesis

<http://mscis.athabascau.ca/resources/thesis-handbook.php>



# The Perspectives

- Students' Perspectives
- Supervisors' Perspectives

# Students' Goals

- Complete the program to get the degree
- Gain skills and knowledge through the research project and thesis
- Enrich research experience and enhance academic credential through successfully conduct research and publication
- Applying the research to their work and further academic pursuing
- Explore interesting research

# Students' Demography

- Adult Students – Experienced Professionals
- Study Online – Self Motivation and Discipline
- Priority – Family, Work, then Study
- Diversity – International, National, and Multicultural
- Variety - Educational Background and Language Skill

# Students' Expectations

- Research inspiration
- Clear research requirement and instruction
- Flexibility in time
- Tolerance in research progression
- Obtaining more information

# Supervisor: Mentoring

- Knowing students' academic and life goals
- Understanding students situations and needs
- Connecting students' works with their research topics possible
- Preparing long term engaging with students
- Engaging students as early as you can

# Supervisor: Professionalism

- Balance students' research with own your research agenda
- Passionate on the research topics to inspire and motivate students
- Work with students to establish a strong conceptual structure and implementable research plan
- Open to work with and learn from students
- Keep in mind students' researches are non-funded and they do research part time

# Supervisor: Supportive

- Be Patient and Encouraging
- Be Flexible – Working after working hours and during weekend and holidays.
- Initiate regular contact and provide high quality feedback
- Set up timeline for review
- Providing research funding information and encourage students' applications

# Supervisor: Collaborative

- Co-authoring research papers with students
- Welcome and respect intellectual debate and challenge
- Inform students about university policies that govern intellectual property, and about any specific intellectual property issues
- Make an agreement early in rights of authorship, the order of authorship on multi-authored publications, and ownership of data
- Handle friendly and frankly conflicts with students



# Lessons Learned

- Don't hesitate to deny supervision requests
- Make clear the expectations and requirements
- Keep regular contact with students
- Set timeline for delivery
- Beware policies and guidelines
- Earlier identify the potential students

Thank you for your attention!

Question?