

Department of Surgery
Surgery 9000 – Advanced Principles of Surgical Research
COURSE INFORMATION
September 2026

Course Coordinator:	Dr. Brent Lanting
Course Time:	Fall/Winter
Course Weight:	1.0 credit
Course Delivery:	Hybrid (Monday afternoons – synchronous online, a few sessions in person)

Enrollment Restrictions:

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the MSc in Surgery program.

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide the basic skills and resources in evidence-based medicine, grant writing, research ethics, research methodology and design, and principles of clinical trials.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Select the appropriate study design based on your research question.
2. Develop an understanding of surgical research principles.
3. Critically appraise surgical scientific research.
4. Effectively communicate your research results through both written and oral communication.
5. Understand the importance of ethical guidelines when designing research studies.
6. Build your knowledge and understanding of surgical research principles.

Course Administration:

The course begins on September 14, 2026, and is scheduled to end on March 8, 2027. Class material is all posted in OWL Brightspace. There will be synchronous sessions on Zoom for this course, with four sessions being held in person. The Zoom class session meeting notices are on the OWL site for the course. For the Zoom sessions, cameras must be turned on and please be ready to participate in the lecture.

This course is a mandatory requirement of the MSc in Surgery Program. You will be required to sign and acknowledge that you are aware that the synchronous class sessions begin at either 4 or 5 PM. Being late is not acceptable unless a valid reason is provided in advance.

Course Material/Resources:

All course material and assignments will be posted to the course website in OWL Brightspace. The website for OWL Brightspace is: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home/198298>

Technical Requirements:

You will need a stable internet connection, laptop or computer, working microphone, and working webcam.

Course Evaluation:

For this course students will be graded as Pass/Fail. **In order to pass the course, you must attend at least 80% of the class sessions and successfully pass the three assignments.** Attendance will be taken for all sessions. Participation at all sessions is expected and advanced notice must be given, supported by valid reason, if you cannot attend a lecture. Please note these sessions are not recorded.

Assignment 1 - Prepare a Grant Summary

Assignment 2 - Written Communications – Research Paper Development

Assignment 3 - Prepare and Present a 6-minute Research Lecture

Late Policy:

Please note unless supported by valid reason any assignment that is more than one week late will not be accepted and will receive a failing grade.

Course Material & Course Notes:

Instructors will select relevant material to be read for each of the topic areas. The material for each lesson **will be available in OWL Brightspace prior to the lecture.** If any additional

material is provided it will be posted after the class on the OWL site for the course. All assignments will be posted in OWL.

Lecture Topics 2026-27:

DATE	SESSION NAME	INSTRUCTOR
September 7	NO CLASS – LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY	
September 14	MSc in Surgery Program Orientation - In Person Session	Dr. Brent Lanting
September 21	Evidence Based Medicine – a Primer	Dr. Kelly Vogt
September 28	Western Libraries	Ms. Maren Goodman
October 5	Grant Writing	Dr. Alp Sener
October 12	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
October 19	Big Data/ICES	Dr. Blayne Welk
October 26	Principles of Qualitative & Education Research	Dr. Sayra Cristancho
December 14	Quality Assurance	Dr. Terry Zwiép
December 28	NO CLASS – WINTER BREAK	
January 11	Written Communication	Dr. Ruby Grewal
January 18	Health Economics	Dr. Jackie Marsh
January 25	Oral Communication - In Person Session	Dr. Shane Smith
February 1	6 Minute Presentations - In Person Session	Dr. Shane Smith
February 8	Research Knowledge Translation	Dr. Joy MacDermid
February 15	NO CLASS – FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY	
February 22	Clinical Trials	Dr. Muriel Brackstone
March 1	Commercialization & Patents	Dr. Asha Parekh
March 8	Statistics Recap - In Person Session	Dr. Joel Gagnier

Assignments

Assignment Number	Session Topic	Due Date
1	Grant Writing	October 19, 2026
2	Written Communication	January 25, 2027
3	6-Minute Presentation	February 1, 2027

Course Instructors:

Instructor	Phone Extension	Email Address
Dr. Brent Lanting	33335	Brent.Lanting@lhsc.on.ca
Dr. Kelly Vogt	58547	Kelly.Vogt@lhsc.on.ca
Dr. Ruby Grewal	66286	rgrewa@uwo.ca
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Ms. Jennifer Kang (Administrative Contact)	64357	Jennifer.Kang@sjhc.london.on.ca

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Health/Wellness Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health Support at Western](https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html) (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accessible Education (AE):

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education (AE), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AE and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are

arranged. These accommodations may include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction. Please visit the [Accessible Education](https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html) (https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html) web page for more information.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the [Wellness and Wellbeing website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html) To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Guidance for the use of Generative AI in Graduate Studies

Please refer to the Provisional Guidance for the use of Generative AI in Graduate Studies for more information. Further information is available at the [School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies](https://grad.uwo.ca/about_us/policies_procedures_regulations/ai.html) website: https://grad.uwo.ca/about_us/policies_procedures_regulations/ai.html