

### Spouses or partners who evaluate the same graduate student

“Graduate Student” means:

- (i) a student enrolled in a Masters or doctoral programs, EdD and DMA students; and
- (ii) an applicant for admission as a Graduate Student.

“Evaluation” means participation in any capacity in evaluating a Graduate Student including evaluating applications for admission as a Graduate Student, evaluating applications or nominations for fellowships, awards, and the like, for employment (as TAs or GRAs, for example), supervising Graduate Students, serving on a supervisory committee or examining committee, and evaluating comprehensive examinations.

“Spouse or Partner” of a UBC faculty member includes a spouse or partner who is not a UBC faculty member. For example, you are a faculty member at UBC, and your spouse/partner is a faculty member at Simon Fraser University, and you both supervise the same Graduate Student.

In any case in which a UBC faculty member and the Spouse or Partner of that UBC faculty member participate together in an Evaluation, care must be taken to ensure that there is no actual or perceived conflict of interest.

Please do everything reasonably possible to ensure that you and your Spouse or Partner do not participate together in an Evaluation.

If there is an academic necessity, as distinct from a mere preference or convenience, for a UBC faculty member and their Spouse or Partner to participate together in an Evaluation, please do the following:

- As soon as reasonably possible tell the Graduate Student and the Graduate Advisor about the participation of your Spouse or Partner in the Evaluation. Do not assume that just because people know you or work with you that they also know of your marriage/partnership.
- Expand all committees for that Graduate Student by one member and make sure everyone on the committee knows why.
- Explain to all committee members the personal relationship that exists between you and your Spouse or Partner. Do not assume that just because people know you or work with you that they also know of your marriage/partnership.
- Ask all committee members to speak up if they have any reason for thinking that your marriage/partnership is impacting the Graduate Student, and to speak up even if the benefit is ostensibly to the Graduate Student.
- Make sure only one of you sits on the Graduate Student’s thesis/dissertation examining committee.
- Ask someone who is a peer or senior to you to act as a kind of ombudsperson. For example, if it is the Head, everyone involved (Graduate Student, committee members, Graduate Advisor) knows who to go to if something just isn’t going well (and seems to be because of the co-supervision by a couple). It can be very helpful for a Graduate Student to know this in advance even if they never need to contact the person.

Add all this info, and the steps taken (i.e., your management plan), to your conflict of interest declaration. And to both declarations, if you are both UBC faculty members.