Final Assessment Report
Submitted by SUPR-U to SCAPA

Name of Program
Sociology

Degrees Offered
Bachelor of Arts

External Consultants
Patrizia Albanese - Ryerson University
Lisa Strohschein - University of Alberta

Internal Reviewers
Kevin Wamsley, Associate Dean - Faculty of Health Sciences
Dominic Shepherd, undergraduate student - Faculty of Health Sciences

Date of Site Visit
March 6, 2015

Evaluation
Good Quality

Approved by SUPR-U
May 20, 2015

Executive Summary
The external reviewers met with administrators, faculty, staff, undergraduate students, and university librarians. They concluded that the Department of Sociology at Western is served by strong leadership and excellent staff and that it delivers an innovative program that appeals to a range of student interests. The reviewers noted that the curriculum, including many online options, is delivered by a group of well-respected scholars. The reviewers report that a significant decrease in faculty complement has placed challenges upon its teaching resources generally and, more specifically, is restricting its opportunity to grow in popular areas of study such as criminology. The reviewers see opportunities to enhance experiential learning opportunities for students by engaging students in research, while promoting student engagement in the interdisciplinary research centres in the Department. The reviewers conclude that learning outcomes are clearly articulated and that the Department employs unique and valuable methods of evaluation in its courses. They note that contract faculty should be mentored to a greater degree to improve their methods course offerings and that more women should be involved in offering social theory and classical theory courses. The reviewers suggest that the appointment of tenure-track professors is necessary to manage the recent growth in criminology and to address the demand evident in such areas as population, aging, and health and the general Sociology modules.

Significant Strengths of Program
- 3rd largest undergraduate enrollment in the Faculty of Social Sciences
- well-respected, actively-engaged faculty members
- outstanding learning experiences for students, including significant opportunities in distance learning
- well-articulated learning outcomes
- curriculum well represents the current state of the discipline
- state-of-the-art evaluative methods
- top scholars deliver methods, statistics, and social theory
- international material represented in course offerings
- well-rounded program
Suggestions for improvement & Enhancement

- enhance community-engaged learning opportunities
- increase opportunities for undergraduate research mentorship with faculty members and research centres
- promote international opportunities and track student participation
- reintroduce gender theory courses
- celebrate student awards

Recommendations required for Program sustainability:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase and communicate engagement opportunities for students in the community, in research, and for international activities (suggestion)</td>
<td>Department; Western Experiential Learning, Western International</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender theory courses (suggestion)</td>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Contingent upon hiring</td>
<td>5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addition of tenure track-positions to Criminology as first priority and to other modules and areas (Social Inequality) as second priority</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Faculty complement</td>
<td>1 year</td>
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