

2024-2025



Annual Report

Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement (OAQE)

*Supporting Academic Excellence and Innovation
Through Continuous Program Enhancement*

Quality assurance in higher education is fundamentally about ensuring that our academic programs remain responsive, relevant, and rigorous in a constantly evolving landscape. Programs must adapt to disciplinary advances, emerging career pathways, shifting pedagogical approaches, and the changing needs of students and society. While continuous enhancement occurs through the day-to-day work of faculty and program leaders, structured processes such as cyclical program review and new program development create crucial opportunities for deeper reflection, visioning, and strategic planning. These processes provide intentional space to examine alignment among learning outcomes, curriculum design, student supports, and operational structures, ensuring all components work together to advance student success and program excellence.

The 2024-2025 academic year has been one of transformation and renewal for the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement (OAQE) and its partners. Following the first phase of Western's provincial quality assurance audit which was finalized in August 2024, the OAQE has actively implemented recommendations while building on commendations highlighted in [the final report](#). This work aligns with broader provincial priorities for system transformation, emphasizing how quality assurance can better respond to large-scale forces for change, including reconciliation, technological advances such as Generative AI, and evolving societal needs.

Central to this transformation is an enhanced focus on the *student experience* as a core component of quality assurance. Throughout the year, the OAQE strengthened mechanisms for capturing the student voice in program reviews and new program development. Student-led focus groups, which proved highly successful last year, were expanded to support more programs in their self-study preparations. These sessions provide valuable insights into both strengths to celebrate and opportunities for enhancement, a balanced perspective that fuels meaningful reflection and planning.

Looking ahead, the OAQE will prepare for the second phase of the provincial quality assurance audit, once again taking stock of processes and refining practices and supports. The 2025-2026 cycle will bring the largest number of cyclical program reviews yet, with nearly 35 undergraduate and graduate programs scheduled. Even with this substantial volume, we remain committed to providing the same level of support and timeliness programs have come to expect.

None of this work happens in isolation. It reflects the shared efforts of Western's academic and administrative community—faculty, staff, students—and the many partners who contribute to strengthening quality assurance. Through committee deliberations, evolving processes, and collaborative program supports, we have collectively advanced practices that better serve our students. The OAQE remains committed to working alongside programs in cyclical review and new program development in ways that are enhancement-oriented, evidence-informed, and focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for our students.

Jovan Groen, Ph.D.
Director of Academic Quality and Enhancement



Newly Approved Programs

Undergraduate

Major in Black Studies

Major in Analytics and Decision Sciences, King's University College

Certificate in Critical Public Health

Graduate

Graduate Diploma in Management

11 Undergraduate Programs

3 at 

5 at 

3 at 

Cyclical Program Reviews



8 Graduate Programs

68 Modifications Across All Programs

45% Changes to Program Requirements or Learning Outcomes

12% Addition of a New Field, Minor Module or Certificate

28% Program, Field or Module Closure

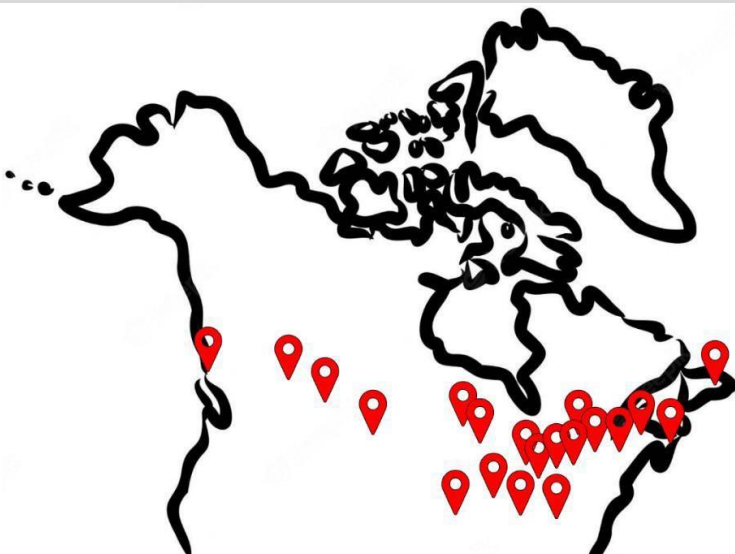
4% Integration of a Work-Integrated Learning Option

3% Change in Program Name

4% Change in Admission Requirements



Major Modifications



Institutional Origin of This Year's 42 External Reviewers

Western's Academic Quality & Enhancement Team

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Visit the OAQE Website [here](#)

Key Partners

- Office of the Vice-Provost Academic Programs
- School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
- Centre for Teaching and Learning
- University Secretariat
- Office of Institutional Planning and Budgeting
- Office of the Registrar
- Western Libraries
- Office of the Vice Provost, Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty
- Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Western Alumni



Western's OAQE works to ensure the quality of the University's undergraduate and graduate academic programs by leading quality assurance and enhancement processes in partnership with academic leaders and administrators across all departments, faculties, schools, and support units.

2024-2025 Cyclical Program Review Final Assessment Reports

The following programs were reviewed during this academic year. The full versions of each of the Final Assessment Reports (FARs) can be found on [the OAQE website](#) or by using the hyperlinks embedded in the program names below.

Arts and Humanities

- [Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies B.A.](#)

Faculty of Science

- [Chemistry B.Sc.](#)
- [Chemistry M.Sc., Ph.D.](#)
- [Mathematics B.Sc.](#)
- [Mathematics M.Sc., Ph.D.](#)
- [Statistics M.Sc., Ph.D.](#)

Faculty of Social Science

- [Anthropology B.A.](#)
- [Anthropology M.A., Ph.D.](#)
- [Economics, B.Sc. \(Approved in January 2025\)](#)
- [Economics, M.A, Ph.D \(Approved in November 2024\)](#)

Faulty of Media and Information Studies

- [Media and Communication Studies, B.A.](#)
- Media Studies M.A., Ph.D. (Pending Final Approval)
- [Library & Information Science M.L.I.S., Ph.D.](#)

Western Law

- [Law LL.M., Ph.D., M.S.L \(Approved in September 2025\)](#)

Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry

- [Medical Education \(Approved in March 2025\)](#)

Ivey Business School

- [Business, HBA \(Approved in January 2025\)](#)

Inter Faculty Programs

- [Accounting G.Dip.](#) (Social Science and Ivey)

Huron University

- [Economics B.A.](#)
- [Management and Organizational Studies B.A.](#)
- [Global Studies B.A.](#)

King's University College

- [French B.A.](#)
- [Thanatology B.A.](#)
- Disability Studies (Pending final approval)