

2021-2022



Annual Report

Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement (OAQE)

*Supporting Academic Excellence and Innovation
Through Continuous Program Enhancement*



Western

Established in the summer of 2021, the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement (OAQE) has been tasked with the further enhancement of all protocols in relation to Western's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP). More broadly, to ensure that Western meets all expectations of the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance.



While the terms “quality assurance” and “program review” often bring to mind notions of evaluation and accountability, fundamentally the accountability is to the members of the program community itself – students, faculty and staff. This is central to the ethos of the OAQE – leveraging program development and review opportunities as a scaffolded and supported catalyst to listen, collect data, analyse, interpret, reflect, discuss, vision and plan toward well-designed, innovative and inclusive academic programs. Recognizing that it is not possible to effectively achieve this in isolation, the OAQE aims to foster and support a collaborative process that benefits from a multiplicity of perspectives. Be they the varied voices within a program, the myriad campus partners who work to support Western's academic programs, faculty and students, or the community of expert peers who serve as external reviewers.

Expanding on the excellence of existing work that supports the quality of Western's academic programs, this year saw a few noteworthy changes. Firstly, the revision of Western's IQAP document. Working from the version initially written in 2011, this revision has brought this guiding document in line with the province's new [Quality Assurance Framework](#) and has woven in the more enhancement-oriented ethos that underpins program review and development work. Secondly, the pilot offering of Western's Quality Assurance Academy which recruited and trained student leaders to serve as internal reviewers as part of cyclical and new program reviews. While only in its first year, this initiative proved effective at engaging students in formal quality assurance processes leading to the integration of important student insights into the continuous improvement of academic programs.

With one year in this role, I have witnessed the passion of members of the university community who offer outstanding and innovative programing. I can easily attest to the commitment of, and significant effort contributed by, the many valuable partners in academic quality here at Western. In particular, those of the Office of the Vice-Provost Academic Programs, the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS), the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), the University Secretariat, the Office of the Vice Provost, Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty, and finally the members of the Subcommittees on Program Review (SUPR-U/G). This dedication bodes well for the sustained quality of Western's academic programs and the success of our students.

Looking to the year ahead, the focus of the OAQE will continue to be on the renewal of the resources that accompany all IQAP protocols. The goal – to make program review and development ever more reflective, collaborative, strategic and sustained.

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



New Program Approvals

Undergraduate

Creative Arts and Production
Artificial Intelligence Systems Engineering

Graduate

Primary Healthcare Nurse Practitioner
Engineering Leadership and Innovation

14 Undergraduate Programs

(13 completed | 1 in progress)

3 @  3 @ 

2 @  6 @ 
Western

Cyclical Program Reviews



19 Graduate Programs

(11 completed | 8 in progress)

44 Across All Programs



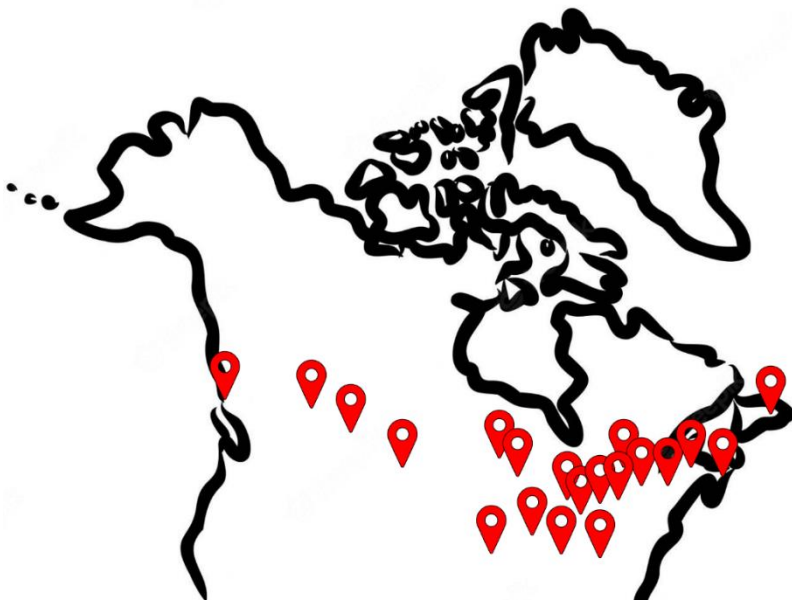
Major Modifications

40% Changes to Course/Program Requirements

31% Addition of New Specialization, Field, or Minor Module

22% Program Closures

7% Program Name Changes



Institutional Origin of This Year's 51 External Reviewers

Western's Academic Quality & Enhancement Team

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Visit the OAQE website by [clicking here](#)

Key Partners

- School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
- Office of the Vice-Provost Academic Programs
- Centre for Teaching and Learning
- University Secretariat
- Office of the Registrar
- Office of Institutional Planning and Budgeting
- 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.

2021-2022 Final Assessment Reports

As part of this year's roster of cyclical program reviews, it was evident that programs put good effort into their self-studies – leveraging this exercise for reflection and planning. Ever more, programs undertook surveys of current and recently graduated students to shed light on the student experience and how this aligned with program goals. Facilitated by the CTL, programs undertook curriculum mapping initiatives reflecting on the alignment of program-level outcomes across courses and the nature and distribution of assessments. The SGPS scaffolded the self-study of graduate programs via the population of a myriad of tailored data tables followed by consultations to support the interpretation of data and reflection on implications.

With over 50 external reviewers participating in virtual visits this past year, a diverse set of disciplinary and pedagogical expertise further engaged program reflections, enhancements, and visioning. Prompted by the new strategic plan, a greater number of questions about how programs are prioritizing equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization was observed. Overall, reviewers were quite complimentary of program efforts in relation to continued program enhancement, development, and innovation. As the OAQE continues to support the program review and approval processes, we will learn from this past year as we further optimize quality assurance processes, practices and supporting resources.

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

Cyclical Program Reviews

Faculty of Arts & Humanities

- I. [Department of Languages and Cultures, BA](#)
- II. [Theatre Studies, BA](#)
- III. [Comparative Literature, MA, PhD](#)
- IV. [Linguistics, MA](#)

Faculty of Education

- I. [Professional Programs, Education, MPED, EdD](#)

Faculty of Engineering

- I. [Mechanical and Materials Engineering, MEng, MEng, MSc, PhD](#)
- II. Civil and Environmental Engineering, MEng, MSc, PhD (still in progress)
- III. Electrical and Computer Engineering, MEng, MSc, PhD (still in progress)
- IV. Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, MEng, MSc, PhD (still in progress)

Faculty of Health Sciences

- I. [Kinesiology, BA and BSc](#)
- II. [Communication Sciences & Disorders, MSc](#)
- III. [Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, MSc, PhD](#)

- IV. [Kinesiology, MA, MSc, PhD](#)
- V. [Physical Therapy, MPT](#)
- VI. [Occupational Therapy, MSc](#)
- VII. [Advanced Health Care Practice, MCISc](#)

Faculty of Law

- I. [Juris Doctor \(JD\) Program](#)

Faculty of Science

- I. Planetary Science and Exploration – Collaborative Specialization, MSc, PhD (still in progress)
- II. Computer Science, MSc, PhD (still in progress)

Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry

- I. [Neuroscience, BSc](#)
- II. [Epidemiology & Biostatistics Program, BMSc](#)
- III. [Family Medicine, MCISc, PhD](#)
- IV. Neuroscience, MSc, PhD (still in progress)
- V. Orthodontics, MCID (still in progress)

Ivey Business School

- I. Business, MBA, PhD (still in progress)

Brescia University College

- I. [Food and Nutritional Sciences, BScFN](#)
- II. [Philosophy and Religious Studies, BA](#)
- III. [French, BA](#)

Huron University College

- I. [East Asia Studies, BA](#)
- II. French, BA (still in progress)

King's University College

- I. [Sociology & Criminology, BA](#)
- II. [Management and Organizational Studies, BMOS](#)
- III. [Economics, BA](#)

Newly Approved Programs

- Creative Arts and Production (CAP), BA
- Artificial Intelligence Systems Engineering (AISE), BESC
- Primary Healthcare Nurse Practitioner, GDip
- Engineering Leadership and Innovation, GDip