

Classics Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

Faculty / Affiliated University College	Arts and Humanities	
Degrees Offered	MA and PhD	
Approved Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient History • Archaeology / Material Culture • Classics (Greek and Latin Philology and Literature) 	
External Consultants	Dr. Sean Corner, Professor, McMaster University	Dr. Lea Sterling, Professor, University of Manitoba
Internal Reviewer	Samuel Trosow, Associate Prof. Faculty of Law and Faculty of Information & Media Studies	Karen Dunkerley, Graduate student
Date of Site Visit	December 3 and 4, 2018	
Evaluation	Good Quality	
Approval Dates	SUPR-G: March 18, 2019 SCAPA: April 3, 2019 Senate (FYI only): April 12, 2019 <small>This section will be completed by the Office of the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) or Associate University Secretary</small>	
Date of Next Review	Year of next cyclical review - 2025-2026	

In accordance with Western's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Final Assessment Report provides a summary of the cyclical review, internal responses and assessment and evaluation of Graduate Program delivered by the Faculty of Arts & Humanities. This report considers the following documents: the program's self-study, the external consultants' report and the responses from the Department/School and Faculty. The Final Assessment Report identifies the strengths of the program, opportunities for program enhancement and improvement and details and prioritizes the recommendations of the external consultants and prioritizes those recommendations that are selected for implementation.

The Implementation Plan details the recommendations from the Final Assessment Report that are selected for implementation, identifies who is responsible for approving and acting on the recommendations, any action or follow-up that is required, and the timeline for completion.

The Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan is sent for approval through SUPR-G and SCAPA, then for information to Senate and the Ontario Universities' Council on Quality Assurance and is made available in a publicly accessible location on Western's IQAP website. The Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan is the only document resulting from the Graduate cyclical review process that is made public, all other documents are confidential to the Program/School/Faculty and SUPR-G.

Executive Summary

The site visit took place on December 3 and 4, 2018 by the two external reviewers, the internal reviewer and a graduate student. Classics is a small program in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, so it was possible for the reviewers to speak with substantially all of the faculty and staff, as well as a good cross-section of graduate students. This is an exceptionally close-knit department with a strong sense of collegiality, very high morale and a clear sense of mission. The faculty members are at the forefront of research in their respective fields and at the same time, they undertake a very high teaching load in comparison to other programs. By all measures, this is a highly successful graduate program but it is facing many challenges which need to be addressed.

Strengths of the program

The external examiners concluded that:

- The Learning Outcomes for the programs are clearly mapped out.
- The learning outcomes are well-matched with the requirements in the programs.
- The program requirements are clearly mapped onto the university's Graduate Degree Level Expectations and this is presented to current and prospective students in a clear manner.
- The 12 core faculty (currently 11 tenured faculty members in the Department, one of whom will retire in 2019, plus one faculty member on a three-year contract) collectively demonstrate excellence in every realm of academic accomplishment: books published at influential academic presses, peer-reviewed articles, and grants from SSHRC and other foundations.
- The supervision of graduate students (including major summer papers and MA theses) is reasonably well distributed among faculty across the Department.
- In terms of admissions standards, requirements for both the MA and PhD programs are consistent with those of other leading Canadian programs.
- While the quality of students admitted are high, the level of preparation of entering students varies considerably, the Core Course and other (thesis and coursework-based requirements) are designed to address this difference.
- The first year Core Course, (year-long, taken by first-year MA and PhD students) is divided into four parts (Roman history and archaeology, Greek history and archaeology, Latin literature, and Greek literature) each taught by a different faculty member. The goals are to provide a common basic grounding in the subject areas and also to cultivate a sense of community among the students.

Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

Given the turnover of the faculty, due to both retirements and tenure denials, there is a sense of urgency that faculty renewal is the highest priority if the quality of the program is to be maintained. This need can be met through a combination of a new tenure-track hires and the use of limited duty faculty. There are also facility-related issues which can be addressed by re-configuring some of the existing space. The Program is only able to offer three graduate courses per term in addition to the Core Course. Two, each term, are in Greek and Latin, leaving just one history/archaeology course offering each term. This results in limited choice for students beyond the first year.

Summary of the Reviewers' Key Recommendations and Department/Faculty Responses

This program is performing well in a very competitive environment. It has high admissions standards, attracts a good number of applicants, and has high completion rates. There is high morale and a strong sense of collegiality in the program. In order to maintain the excellence of the program and to build on its strengths, the reviewers have made several recommendations, with which the internal reviewer concurs:

1. It is essential to maintain expertise in Greek archaeology and ancient philosophy in the Program. With the anticipated retirement of the current Greek archaeologist and the recent departure of an ancient philosopher, ongoing viability of the program is at risk.
2. It is generally felt that there is a shortage of classes after the first year, and that more variety in course offerings is needed. The department should offer one more graduate course per semester or even one more per year to let students shape their programs more. In particular, students in the archaeology stream do not have access to ample course-work in their field. As the enrollments in these courses is in the 15-20 range there are enough students in the program to support further offerings. Increased support for limited-term positions and a further tenure-stream appointment in the Department are possible approaches to enable the Program to increase course offerings.
3. The Program is currently engaged in ongoing discussion about the goals, design and delivery of the Core Course. They are urged to continue these discussions.
4. Next year the Program will face a shortfall in office space for graduate students. This could be addressed by reconfiguring Lawson Hall 3270D, which is a large space, but is not well configured as it is.
5. As student mental health is a serious and growing problem across campus, the faculty, staff and students in this program would benefit from increased knowledge of the various campus and community resources available to support students, and guidance about how to optimally access these services.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
1. Expertise in Greek Archaeology and Ancient Philosophy are essential to the viability of the program. With an anticipated retirement and a recent departure, a plan is needed to ensure ongoing availability of expertise in these essential areas	In collaboration with the Dean, the Department Chair and Graduate Program Chair should draft a plan to address the shortfall of expertise in these critical areas	Faculty and department	Sept 2019
2. Expand the selection of graduate courses, particularly post-first-year courses. The need for additional course offerings is most acute in the archaeology stream.	In consultation with the Dean and Department Chair, develop a plan to broaden the scope of courses offered on a regular basis	Faculty and department	Sept 2019
3. Continue redesign of content and delivery of “core-course”	These discussions have been underway and should continue	Internal to faculty in department	Ongoing
4. Enhance work-space for graduate students and enhance usability of department seminar room.	The space in Lawson Hall 3270D could be adequate to meet this need with some renovations. The size of the seminar room is inadequate for some of the classes.	University and Faculty	Sept 2019