

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT OF PROGRAM REVIEW

Undergraduate Program	Department of French Studies
New or Cyclical Program Review (please indicate)	Cyclical Program Review
Degree(s) Offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honors Specializations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ French Language and Literature ○ French Language and Linguistics ○ French Linguistics and Literature • Specialization in French • Majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ French Language and Literature ○ French Language and Linguistics ○ French Studies • Certificate and Diploma Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Français des affaires (Business French) ○ Français pratique (Practical French)
Date of Site Visit	March 14 2012
Evaluation	Good Quality

Summary:

The reviewers, Johanne Bénard (Queen's University) and Anne-Marie Brousseau (University of Toronto), met with the major constituency groups including Faculty members, Undergraduates, Graduate Teaching Assistants, the Chair and Undergraduate Chair of the Department as well as the Associate Dean and the Vice Provost. Their impression of the French Studies program was quite positive and they evaluated the quality of training as high.

They commended the department for its work on reviewing and improving the curriculum since the departmental review in 2008. They noted that the development of the curriculum is, as it should be, an ongoing process in the Department. Thus the reviewers offered suggestions for change within the context that the training was already very good and that the reputation of the department was excellent. To quote from the report: "All Majors, Specializations and Honours Specializations in the program are globally successful in developing the knowledge and abilities students must have acquired at the time of graduation."

The department, for the most part, concurred with the suggestions the reviewers made to improve the program. One area where the two deviated was with respect to the department's decision to align language courses to the Common European Framework of Reference. The reviewers thought the department should reconsider this decision since they believed the framework reduced Canadian Content and that energies might be better invested in other projects. The department, however, notes that the framework doesn't prescribe content but rather linguistic skills sets and outcomes. Given that Ontario Secondary Schools are following this model, it makes good sense to continue with the Common European Framework of Reference, and now that the second-year course has been revised, revisions in other courses are expected to be less time consuming.

Both the reviewers and the Department recognized the need to ensure students in first year receive qualified instruction. The reviewers suggested using faculty for this purpose, but the Department pointed out that these small classes would not be a good use of the faculty members' time and that they are obligated to use graduate students to deliver first-year language courses.

Recommendation	Responsibility
Reduce redundancy in courses particularly with respect to French 4900	Department
Introduce a research-based capstone course	Department
Consider requiring at least 0.5 credit at the fourth-year level of Majors	Department working group
Provide support for international experience initiatives	Department & University
Rationalize translation courses	Department
Suggestions to redesign courses to combat enrolment concerns in literature courses.	Working group of department
Ensure qualified people teach first-year courses – department is implementing a program to better train TA's	Department
Find a better placement test	Department
Continue to encourage experiential learning	Department working group
Collect quality indicators such as success rates, academic awards, attrition	University