



Classical Studies Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

Faculty / Affiliated University College	Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Degrees Offered	BA
Modules Reviewed	Honors Specialization in Classical Studies, Specialization in Classical Studies, Major in Classical Studies
External Consultants	Dr. Rebecca Nagel, Associate Dean (Student Programs), Faculty of Arts Associate Professor, Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta Dr. Peter Toohey, Professor, Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary
Internal Reviewer	Dr. Stephanie Horsley, Acting Associate Director, eLearning and Curriculum, Centre for Teaching and Learning
Date of Site Visit	March 6-7, 2019
Evaluation	Good Quality
Approval Dates	SUPR-U: May 15, 2019 SCAPA: May 29, 2019 Senate (For FYI): June 7, 2019
Year of Next Review	2026-27

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 the undergraduate modules delivered by the Department of Classical Studies. This report considers the following documents: the program’s self-study, the external consultants’ report, and the responses from the Department 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-U, SCAPA, Senate and the Ontario Universities’ Council on Quality Assurance and is made available on a publicly accessible location on Western’s IQAP website. The Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan is the only document resulting from the undergraduate cyclical

review process that is made public, all other documents are confidential to the Program/Faculty and SUPR-U.

Executive Summary

The site visit took place March 6-7, 2019 and consisted of a series of meetings with University, Faculty, and Department administrative members. This included the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), the Faculty of Arts and Humanities' Dean and Associate Dean (Academic), and the departmental and undergraduate chairs. The reviewers also met with departmental faculty, current undergraduate students, administrative support staff, and staff from Western Libraries. The reviewers toured the Department's classrooms, faculty offices, meeting areas, and shared common areas. The Department provided the reviewers with an extensive self-study prior to their visit.

The external consultants' report describes Classical Studies as an "outstanding department," currently considered second in Ontario and poised to become a leader on the national and international stage. The reviewers largely attribute this "vibrant and successful" undergraduate program to its collegial, motivated, and energetic faculty; strategic large-enrolment course offerings; recent curricular revisions to its language courses; and the "transformative" learning opportunities facilitated through several experiential courses offered at the 3000 and 4000 level.

The reviewers noted that the human, physical, and financial resources supporting the department were generally quite good, but identified some areas where recent work could be built upon to support an already strong Department. Both the Department and Faculty were generally in agreement with the recommendations, resources permitting.

Significant Strengths of the Program

The following program strengths are identified in both the self-study and the External Consultants' Report:

- A strong sense of collegiality among faculty, students, and staff
- Demonstrated teaching excellence and faculty who are devoted to their roles as instructors and mentors
- Demonstrated research excellence
- Outstanding management and leadership within the department
- Good support for the department at the Faculty and University level
- The Department's strong national and international reputation
- Thoughtfully designed language courses and course progression
- Flexible 1000 and 2000-level large enrolment course options that do not require pre-requisites. These classes allow students from across other disciplines the opportunity to explore issues in Classical Studies and have served as an effective entryway into the Department's modules. These larger classes also allow the Department to maintain the smaller language classes that are integral to the Hon. Specialization and Specialization modules.
- Three experiential learning courses (CS 4580F/G Vindolanda Field School, CS 3010F/G Study Tour to Greece, and CS 3050F/G Study Tour to Italy) that support Western's strategic priorities in the area of experiential learning and internationalization. The reviewers also noted that these three courses "increase the feeling of community and shared intellectual enterprise" among faculty and students. Students are made aware of financial assistance that can support inclusion in at least one of these courses. These field and study courses were characterized as "transformative" by the reviewers.

- The inclusion of Classical Studies faculty in the delivery of interdisciplinary courses in the School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities (SASAH)

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

The reviewers' key recommendations are few. Below is a summary of their key suggestions in approximate rank order.

1. Change the assessment structure of an existing 2000-level course focused toward material culture to attract very high enrolments like enrolments in myth and sport
 - a. The reviewers noted that a fourth large enrolment course would "widen the Classical Studies moat" by diversifying the large-enrolment courses on offer. The Department recognized that value of this suggestion and acknowledged that this is already a high priority. They anticipate increased enrolments in CS 2500 in the next few terms and are offering classes with enrolments over 100 that already utilize multiple choice exams. They also noted that additional large scale offerings are currently constrained by space and exam scheduling limitations (see Recommendation 5).
2. Experiment with conversational Latin to enrich the classroom experience at the introductory level
 - a. The Department agreed with the recommendation and noted that it had already introduced a spoken Latin component to its 2000 level Latin course last year. It plans to expand spoken Latin instruction further through an extracurricular Latin group open to all students in the Department, which will be introduced next year.
3. Maintain Data on Graduates
 - a. The reviewers noted that the Department does not have data on the post degree experiences of undergraduate students. The Department agreed that tracking these students more carefully is important and indicated that they have already begun to do so through the use of social media sites and informal continued contact with individual faculty members. They believe that there is still room for improvement in this area and will continue to explore and develop tracking options.

Other Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

A number of other opportunities for consideration were also raised by the reviewers.

4. Make an appointment in Greek material culture
 - The reviewers observed that the current faculty compliment was just adequate for the program as it stands, but they were concerned that there is a gap in course offerings related to Greek material culture. The Department commented that maintaining current teaching loads is challenging as there have been no course release for graduate students and postponed sabbaticals, and an upcoming retirement will increase this strain. The Faculty noted that it takes such departmental needs into consideration when making decisions about appointments.
5. Improve access to suitable spaces or develop digital testing services for testing in the very large lecture classes.
 - The Department agreed that finding suitable space in which to hold their large classes and scheduling the related exams and make up exams is a serious concern. It noted that lack of space and burdensome exam scheduling logistics are the primary reason why adding more large classes at the 2000 level is problematic at this time, and that it hopes that the University will develop a solution to this campus-wide need.
6. Continue to support student access to experiential learning through programs like the Global Opportunities Awards and the International Learning Awards.

- The Department acknowledged the important role these awards and the Boarding Pass initiative have played in creating access to their experiential learning courses. In the future, it hopes to guarantee that none of the Major, Specialization, and Hon. Specialization students will be prevented by financial constraints from participating in at least one of these courses, but recognizes that this is also contingent up on continued or increased support for such awards.
7. Encourage applications to SSHRC
 - The Department noted that engagement with SSHRC funding has been growing more active and that the site visit took place before the results of this year’s SSHRC results were announced. It reported that, since the site visit, 5 faculty have been awarded 7 SSHRC or WSS-SSHRB grants across various competitions.
 8. Schedule more frequent meetings between the Faculty’s staff in Academic Counselling and the Undergraduate Assistants in the program
 - a. The reviewers commented that more frequent meetings among the members of Faculty staff in these areas would help to develop a shared community and opportunities to share best practices. The Department responded that it saw few, if any, impediments such meetings if there was Faculty support. The Faculty is willing to discuss the issue further at their EPC meetings.
 9. Create materials for the 1000- and 2000-level students to use in the digital learning spaces which are being developed in Western’s Library
 - The Department noted that it has had ongoing discussions about how digital learning platforms and media can enhance students’ classroom experience. They will continue to investigate how the Weldon Library Digital Commons might be incorporated into their modules as more information about that developing space becomes available.

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan provides a summary of the recommendations that require action and/or follow-up. The Department Chair, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty will be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan. The details of progress made will be presented in the Deans’ Annual Report and filed in the Office of the Vice-Provost (Academic).

Recommendation	Proposed Action and Follow-up
1. Experiment with conversational Latin to enrich the classroom experience at the introductory level	Continue to implement conversational Latin in 2000-level courses; introduce an extracurricular Latin group open to all students
2. Change the assessment structure of an existing 2000-level course focused toward material culture to attract very high enrolments like enrolments in myth and sport	Build enrolment in existing large enrolment courses at the 2000 level courses