

Final Assessment Report
Submitted by SUPR-U to SCAPA

Undergraduate Program:	Kinesiology
New or Cyclical Program Review (please indicate)	Cyclical
Degree(s) Offered:	3- and 4-year BA, honors specializations in Kinesiology (BSc, BA), Sports Management (BA), Fitness and Exercise Promotion (BA) and Physical Education for Teaching (BA).
Date of Site Visit:	12 March 2013
Evaluation	Good Quality

Summary:

The external reviewers, Carol Rodgers and Wayne Albert, and the internal reviewer, Pam McKenzie (FIMS), conducted a site visit on 12 March 2013. The reviewers met with faculty, staff, and students from the School of Kinesiology, the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and representatives of the Registrar's Office and Western Libraries. Our discussions were collegial and fruitful.

Overall, the reviewers spoke very positively about the programs. They identified the achievement of accreditation by the Canadian Council of University Physical Education and Kinesiology Administrators [CCUPEKA] as evidence of their strength in both theoretical and hands-on lab-based learning. The School is currently undergoing extensive curriculum review through which it is mapping learning outcomes across the entire curriculum. The self-study involved in this process required broad-ranging curriculum discussions across the individual specialization units, something that faculty identified as a positive new opportunity. This self-study process, along with surveys of current and graduating students, provide robust data that can be used to further enhance the program and to effect any needed changes. The reviewers encouraged the continuation of this review process to identify areas of overlap or limitation in the curriculum.

In their report, the external reviewers identified several strengths of the Kin programs. The quality of students continues to be very high. School faculty represents an unusually broad range of disciplinary perspectives and this breadth is reflected in the curriculum. There is opportunity to build on these multidisciplinary research strengths to develop unique-in-Canada curricular foci, e.g., in Sport Management or Clinical Kinesiology. All Kinesiology students, regardless of specialization, are required to take courses from multiple disciplines, including writing-intensive courses. The structure of the specializations and the range of elective choices allows students to achieve both depth and breadth of knowledge. A variety of theoretical and hands-on courses enables students to acquire knowledge and to apply it through practical experience. The structural and administrative link between the undergraduate programs and Western's athletic programs provide opportunities for students to engage in a variety of experiential opportunities (e.g., coaching, sports science, athletic training) that would not be available otherwise. Lab sections are small and some lab facilities are newly renovated, allowing for an excellent level of student involvement in hands-on laboratory experiences.

The reviewers also noted some challenges. The upcoming Clinical Kinesiology certification process established by the Transitional Council of the College of Kinesiologists of Ontario will include an entry-to-practice exam with a scope of practice that is projected to be broad and to rely heavily on applied and clinical kinesiology. This new certification process is a challenge for all Ontario Kinesiology programs as they reconsider the configuration of their Clinical Kinesiology offerings in response to this change. Students reported that they were unaware of the range of experiential and international learning opportunities available to them. The role, range, and number of activity courses in the curriculum is a matter of some debate and philosophical difference among faculty members. The reviewers note that the number of required activity courses is high compared to other Canadian programs. Although students

uniformly valued the combination of theory and practice offered by activity courses, they expressed concern that these courses are not considered by post-graduate and professional schools, and that the heavy activity requirement prevents them from taking electives more aligned with their career aspirations. Several science-focused Kinesiology courses are not recognized as B.Sc.-eligible, meaning that students in the B.Sc. program are required to take a number of courses outside of the School to complete their degrees. Many laboratory facilities are in dire need of refurbishment. Faculty are dispersed across a number of locations, making it difficult for the program to establish a strong sense of “home.”

The Director’s report has acknowledged and addressed many of these issues, and indicates actions being taken to mitigate them. Any recommendations the reviewers suggest are to strengthen or improve the program

Recommendation	Responsibility
Renewal of lab facilities	Director/Dean
Continued re-evaluation of number and scope of activity courses	Director/faculty