Final Assessment Report
Submitted by SUPR-G to SCAPA

Program:	**Biochemistry**
Degrees Offered:	MSc, PhD
Approved Fields:	Macromolecular Structure and Dynamics Genome Dynamics, Epigenetics and Gene Expression Signal Transduction and Intracellular Communication Human Genetics and Clinical Biochemistry Proteomics Bioinformatics
Date of Site Visit:	May 3 – 4, 2011
Evaluation:	Good Quality

Summary:
The external reviewers considered the UWO Biochemistry graduate programs to be generally strong and vibrant. The overall objectives of the graduate program are clear and the curriculum requirements are appropriate and well defined. Student research is clearly of very high quality overall as is evidenced by a large number of peer-reviewed papers published by graduate students, often first authored and in top journals. It is very noteworthy that Biochemistry graduates have received six of the past eight Collip awards, presented annually for the top PhD thesis in the medical sciences. Students expressed a high level of enthusiasm and satisfaction with progress, which is perhaps the most telling indicator of the strength of the program. The external reviewers believe that the Department of Biochemistry is well poised to continue to play a leadership role in many areas of biochemistry.

Recommendation:	Responsibility
Efforts should be made to increase the number of qualified applicants to the program, particularly applicants from outside Western	Graduate Program Chair, Department Chair, Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Improve the clarity of graduate student funding.	Graduate Program Chair
Implement a process for approving course offerings.	Graduate Program Chair, Biochemistry Graduate Studies Committee
Explore video-conferencing options with hospital partners.	Graduate Program Chair, Department Chair, Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Consideration should be given to increasing faculty strength in the area of Bioinformatics.	Department Chair and Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry