

Final Assessment Report
Submitted by SUPR-G to SCAPA

Program:	Anthropology	
Degrees Offered:	MA and PhD	
Approved Fields:	MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied Archeology • Archeology and Bioarcheology • Sociocultural Anthropology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD • Archeology and Bioarcheology • Sociocultural Anthropology
External Consultants:	Dr. Sabrina Doyon, Professor Université Laval	Dr. Yin-Man Lam, Associate Professor University of Victoria
Internal Reviewers:	Dr. Kamran Siddiqui, Professor (Member of SUPR-G committee)	Mary Blake Bonn, Graduate student
Date of Site Visit:	December 1 & 2, 2016	
Evaluation:	<i>Good Quality</i>	
Approved by:	<i>SUPR-G on February 27, 2017</i> <i>SCAPA on March 8, 2017</i>	

Executive Summary

The Department of Anthropology at Western is regarded as unique among those of its size at other Canadian Universities as it represents and integrates all four sub-fields of anthropology (archeology, sociocultural anthropology, biological anthropology and linguistic anthropology). The structures of both the MA and PhD programs, and their modes of delivery, are consistent with other Anthropology graduate programs.

The external consultants regarded the Anthropology graduate program as one that maintains a high standard of quality across all measures. They did not identify any major concern related to the program; however, they provided some suggestions to overcome few minor issues and to further enhance the program quality.

Through the program brief and review process, the program requested approval for the addition of a new intensive option in the master's level of their Applied Archeology field - MA in Applied Archeology (Intensive Option). The current MA in Applied Archeology has the typical completion time of 2 years (full-time) or 4 years (part-time). The part-time option was attractive to professional archeologists who work full-time for Cultural Resource Management firms. Since its inception in 2009, seven full-time and ten part-time students registered in the program. Despite being higher in numbers, almost all part-time students struggled to meet the program requirements and to date only one student has completed the program requirements; four have withdrawn and the remaining students are well beyond the expected time to completion. The proposed Intensive Option is designed to better cater to the needs of professional archeologists. It is targeted at professional archeologists with field experience, subject knowledge and availability of an archeological dataset (to immediately start working on the thesis). The primary differences in the proposed and former programs are 2.0 course credits versus 2.5 course credits, respectively, and the exemption of the former from the Practicum in Applied Archeology. The proposed program is expected to be completed in one year (full-time) or two years (part-time). The external consultants supported the proposed Intensive Option with a recommendation to clarify the admission criteria; this clarification has been addressed by the graduate program in their response to the review report.

Significant Strengths of Program:

- High quality of graduate supervision and teaching
- High level of satisfaction among students with support and mentorship received from faculty members
- Program’s support and encouragement for external scholarship application; between 2012 and 2016, Anthropology received 42 masters and doctoral scholarship (third highest among all Western graduate programs)
- High supervisory ratio (graduate students per supervisor) compared to other programs in the Faculty of Social Science
- Attracts high quality students
- The graduate seminar provides an excellent learning environment to students and enhances the interaction between students and faculty members
- Excellent facilities and equipment to support research activities

Suggestions for improvement & Enhancement:

- Timely renewal of faculty positions related to retirements
- Opportunities for PhD students to participate in teaching activities
- More working space, particularly for archeology graduate students

Recommendations required for Program sustainability:	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline
Renewal of faculty positions to ensure sustainability of the program’s scope and strength	Dean’s office	Budgetary	Ongoing
Working space for archeology students	Department Chair		Immediate and ongoing