Ongoing Improvement Progress Report

Instructions and Report Template

As part of the protocols outlined in Western's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), to facilitate the continuous improvement of academic programs between review cycles, in connection with the Final Assessment Report (FAR) and Implementation Plan, a monitoring process will include an Ongoing Improvement Progress Report. The outcomes of this report will be considered as part of the program's next cyclical review.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the operationalization of the implementation plan following a Cyclical Program Review (or the review of a New Program). This should include a brief summary of actions taken by the Program and the Dean's Office since the completion of the review (usually about three years), as well as an update on the stage of implementation for all applicable items. These include:

- whether the action item(s) are in progress, complete or no longer applicable (with a brief explanation);
- the timelines of each item and how they are progressing or expected to progress, particularly if they are diverting from original timelines in the FAR and Implementation Plan, and;
- a short description of any other program developments and improvements that have taken place following the review.
- For new programs only, an evaluation of the initial administration and resourcing of the program.

The following report template has been created for the program to report on progress made regarding recommendations presented in the Implementation Plan, and any other relevant program developments and enhancements.

- The program will complete the template and submit it to the faculty Dean's Office for sign-off.
- The program will then submit the completed Ongoing Improvement and Progress Report to the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement (OAQE). Reports are due by June 30.
    - The OAQE will present all Ongoing Improvement and Progress Reports to SUPR-U/G. Any follow-up questions/concerns, will be communicated to the program and Dean's Office by the OAQE.

Ongoing Improvement Progress Report

Program / Faculty Information

Program	Theatre Studies, BA	**Faculty / Affiliated University College**	Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Approval Dates of the Review	SUPR-U: May 18, 2022 ACA: May 25, 2022 Senate: June 10, 2022	**Year of the Next Review**	2029-2030
Link to the Programs Final Assessment Report (FAR)	*https://www.uwo.ca/pvp/vpacademic/iqap/academic_programs/iqap_reports/artshumanitiesundergrad/2022%20Theatre%20Studies%20Program%20Review.pdf*		
If applicable, submission of follow-up report(s)	*Dates to be populated by the OAQE (if applicable)*		

	Name	**Signature**	**Date**
Program Chair/Director	Kim Solga (Professor)		15 April 2025
Dean (or delegate)	Jan Plug, Associate Dean (Academic)		15 May 2025

Progress Update on the Implementation Plan

Recommendation #1	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
Consider the development of an annual offering of a "first-year" 1000-level course in Theatre Studies.	Discuss the merits and feasibility of a first-year course offering in TS and determine the viability of the provisional course reorganization plan.	Program Director Program faculty members Department Head	Plan to be determined by December 2022 Prospective change for September 2023

Recommendation Implemented

X Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially

If no, or partially, is implementation on schedule with the timeline? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Progress

During the 2024-25 academic year Theatre1020: Performance is Everywhere was officially approved; it ran for the first time in winter 2025 with Professor MJ Kidnie as instructor and PhD candidate Alex Lukawski as TA. The course immediately filled to its original cap of 40, which was expanded to 60. It filled again, and was again extended, to 80 students. This cap remains appropriate given that the course includes a creative / performance-driven final assessment.

We are now waiting to see how many students from TS1020 choose to enter TS modules or take upper-level courses from us. At minimum, this course has put Theatre Studies on the radar of a great many new students!

Next Steps (if applicable)

We are monitoring registrations this spring to watch for translation of 1020 students into upper-level modules.

Additional Comments

Recommendation #2	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
Consider the use of some number of adjunct ("limited duties") instructors as part of the instructional cohort.	Determine the possibility of obtaining limited duty appointments to support and diversify course offerings. Discuss additional cross-listed course opportunities.	Program Director Department Head	By December 2022

Recommendation Implemented

☐ Yes ☐ No **X** **Partially**

If no, or partially, is implementation on schedule with the timeline? **X** Yes ☐ No

Progress

For the last several years, Dr Taylor Graham (Guelph PhD, 2023) has been enthusiastically teaching at least one course per year for us. Dr Graham has brought her expertise as a playwright and dramaturg as well as a scholar to Theatre 3581: Toronto, Culture and Performance, and to Theatre 4216: Reviewing Performance; she has also developed a brand new course for us, based on her expertise, Theatre 3951F: Theatre, Ghosts, and the Southwestern Ontario Gothic. While we hope we can continue to employ Dr Graham and/or others with similar scholar-artist expertise in future years, budget concerns dictate our Limited Duties hires.

Next Steps (if applicable)

(See under additional comments below)

Additional Comments

We are keenly aware the hires – LDs or otherwise – in Theatre Studies are budget dependent, which means they are enrolment dependent; as a result, we are undertaking a review of our yearly course offerings to ensure we're taking advantage of maximum possible cross-listing opportunities for individual courses while also meeting our commitments to Majors and Minors. We have elected in 2025-26 to trial the possibility of offering Theatre 2201 and Theatre 2202 (both required) in alternate years in order to make room for courses that can do this double duty more easily.

The 2025-26 EWS incoming writer in residence, Anna Chatterton, is a performance maker and we will be pursuing as many chances as possible to bring her into our classrooms!

Recommendation #3	**Proposed Action and Follow-up**	**Responsibility**	**Timeline**
Determine options for the development and use of a "lab" space that better enables dynamic performance and community engaged pedagogy.	Investigate the repurposing of UC1105 and the possibility of using the McIntosh Gallery. Support the Faculty in consultations with FIMS about the development of a flexible performance space at 450 Talbot.	Program Director Department Head Dean's Office	By December 2022

Recommendation Implemented

☐ Yes X No ☐ Partially

If no, or partially, is implementation on schedule with the timeline? ☐ Yes **X** No

Progress

We have been unsuccessful so far in finding suitable, available additional space. The 450 Talbot project is no longer going forward.

Next Steps (if applicable)

We remain – as we have historically been! – desperate for actual, functioning rehearsal and performance space, even small. We have two leads we are currently pursuing:

- Brescia University College has been absorbed into Western's main campus; Brescia's existing buildings include a theatre. We are seeking information about that space and asking questions regarding the feasibility of our program having access to that space in future.
- We have learned that 450 Talbot will not go ahead; we are now planning to reach back out, through our Dean, to the Dean of FIMS to learn whether the FIMS planned creative commons will go ahead elsewhere. We remain keen to partner with FIMS on that space.

Additional Comments

- As Research Creation is a growing area for the Tri-Councils and particularly SSHRC, it makes sense for us, along with like programs in A&H and FIMS, to explore possible creation space development on campus. Current Director of TS Solga has done teaching-side research into the need for this kind of space. We will pursue, in hope.

Recommendations #4 and #5	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline

Embed Theatre Studies more strongly in the mandate and stewardship of the Department and conduct a retreat to better articulate a stronger place for Theatre Studies within the Department.	Together with the Departmental Head, discuss opportunities to foster further collaboration between departmental programs (e.g. restructuring the CUS committee). Determine a mechanism to review the structure and mandate of the department, with respect to undergraduate studies (e.g. via a planned retreat).	Program Director Department Head	By December 2022

Recommendation Implemented

☐ Yes ☐ No **X** Partially

If no, or partially, is implementation on schedule with the timeline? **X** Yes ☐ No

Progress

Integrating the several programs within EWS has been much on the mind of all the program directors in the unit since this recommendation was made. We have already undertaken the following:

- Full department retreat in Spring 2024, with extensive discussion regarding interdisciplinary collaboration;
- Monthly program directors' meetings within EWS, in which Theatre, Film, Medieval Studies, Writing Studies, and English undergraduate leads discuss challenges and collaborate on potential solutions;
- Active effort to cross-list as many in-house courses as possible to encourage classroom-level cross-pollination and to give TAs in the department the chance to teach across disciplines.

Next Steps (if applicable)

(See below)

Additional Comments

We have decided to undertake a mid-cycle curriculum review. Our goals with this review are:

- To ensure our students are receiving the most important and up to date learning in their required courses;
- To ensure our regular offerings are both varied (for the sake of Majors and Minors) and available for cross-listing with as many sibling programs as possible, to ensure we are speaking in the classroom across program boundaries and growing our enrollment numbers;
- To ensure our 'pick list' of out-of-program options for Majors and Minors reflects the best new courses available at Faculty and Department level, especially on topics related to EDID.