Updated Oct 2022

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- whether the action item(s) are in progress, complete or no longer applicable (with a brief explanation);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 21, 2024.
    - The OAQE will present all Ongoing Improvement and Progress Reports to SUPR-U/G. Any follow-up questions or concerns will be communicated to the program and Dean's Office by the OAQE.
    - It should be noted that as per the requirements of the province's Quality Council, progress reports will be posted on the reports page of the OAQE website.

Ongoing Improvement Progress Report

Film Studies, BA / Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Program	Film Studies, BA	**Faculty / Affiliated University College**	Faculty of Arts & Humanities
Approval Dates of the Review	SUPR-U: May 12, 2021 SCAPA: May 19, 2021 Senate: June 11, 2021	**Year of the Next Review**	2028-2029
Link to the Programs Final Assessment Report (FAR)	https://www.uwo.ca/pvp/vpacademic/iqap/academic_programs/iqap_reports/artshumanitiesundergrad/2021%20Film%20Studies%20Program%20Review.pdf **The dates for the next cyclical review stated on this Senate approved FAR is 2027-2028; this is incorrect, the next review for this program will take place in 2028-2029 as indicated in Western's program review schedule.*		
If applicable, submission of follow-up report(s)			

	Name	**Signature**	**Date**
Program Chair/Director	Christopher Keep	Christopher Keep Digitally signed by Christopher Keep DN: cn=Christopher Keep, o=Western University, ou=Department of English and Writing Studies, email=ckeep@uwo.ca, c=CA Date: 2024.06.06 11:03:46 -04'00'	June 3, 2024
Dean (or designate)	Karin Schwerdtner		June 6, 2024

Progress Update on the Implementation Plan

Recommendation #1	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
Strategically expand options for community-based experiential learning.	Program should entrench community-based events and routines for experiential learning as a carefully planned aspect of the curriculum.	Director of Film Studies Program	Fall 2021 through Winter 2024

Recommendation Implemented

☐ Yes ☐ No **√** Partially

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

Progress

The Program in Film Studies has sought to deepen its relations with community partners, including, for example, sponsoring the Script Writing Prize at the Forest City Film Festival (FCF), and making it easier for students to earn course credit toward their degrees through internships, both with the FCF and other local arts organizations. Other important community partnerships in the past three years have included: the TAP Centre for Creativity (including the 2024 Frames Film Series showcasing experimental film); the Forest City Gallery and Embassy Cultural House (with which we collaborated as the sole Canadian venue for the Queer Cinema for Palestine international film festival in 2024); and the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (which helped us reach out to the local indigenous community for our screening of *One of Us*, to promote black-Indigenous solidarity in 2022).

Next Steps (if applicable)

Summer 2024: Film Studies will withdraw its internship course (Film 4495F/G) and count the new internship courses offered through the The Arts and Humanities Internship Program (AHIP) towards the Honors Specialization module, and as an elective course in the Specialization and Major modules. The AHIP program prepares students for their internships by having them, first, complete the Career Fundamentals for University Students modules, which introduce them to the personal and professional skills they need to succeed in the workplace, and, second, by providing a centralized portal listing all current internship opportunities in London and the surrounding area, as arranged by the faculty's internship team. Students will thus be better prepared to undertake their internships and have access to many more opportunities than in the past, when they were required to identify a community partner willing to take them on, and secure an academic supervisor.

2025-26: Film Studies plans to offer a course in "Film Festivals," which would build on our existing relationships with the Toronto International Film Festival, and afford substantial experiential learning opportunities, including in the curating, organization, and promotion of a film festival. A version of this course was previously offered through the School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities and the instructor has indicated a willingness to offer it again in Film if teaching and service commitments to her home department allow.

Additional Comments

If applicable

Recommendation #2	**Proposed Action and Follow-up**	**Responsibility**	**Timeline**

i) Clarify expectations and planning for Fourth-year capstone courses (FILM 4409E & FILM 4495F/G). ii) Explore establishing partnerships for the internship course (FILM 4495F/G)	a) Clearly define the expected number of pages and scope of the BA thesis (FILM4409E), communicate this on the department webpage, and explicitly differentiate the thesis scope from that of an MA thesis. b) Create clear instructions of what an internship course (FILM4495F/G) application looks like. c) Provide a fair and transparent process of supervisor assignment for both thesis and internship supervision	Director of Film Studies Program	Fall 2021 through Winter 2024

Recommendation Implemented

√ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially

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

Progress

(a) Program website has been updated to indicate the length and scope of the Honors thesis project (Film 4409E), and how it differs from an MA thesis;

(b) Film 4409E will be withdrawn in favour of AH 3000A/B/Y and AH 3001A/B. **T**hese are our faculty-wide internship courses for which clear instructions are available on the Application Process page,
here https://www.uwo.ca/arts/internships/for_students/application_process.html and through the Western Connect central portal.

(c) The responsibilities of both the student and the supervisor in Film 4409E have been spelled out more clearly. Regarding internship supervision: both student responsibilities and employer responsibilities are detailed on the A&H internship program page. The Faculty of Arts & Humanities' internship/experiential learning coordinators, for their part, are "committed to helping students prepare for and pursue meaning internship opportunities that will allow them to discover their career interest and empower them to reach their full

academic and professional potential" (https://www.uwo.ca/arts/internships/about-us/staff.html).

Next Steps (if applicable)

What actions remain? Is there further follow-up?

Additional Comments

If applicable

Recommendation #3	**Proposed Action and Follow-up**	**Responsibility**	**Timeline**
Create additional option for study of film production.	Consider adding one more production course, to meet student interest, with the possibility of a course in screenwriting in collaboration with English.	Chair, Department of English and Writing Studies, and Director of Film Studies Program	Fall 2021 through Winter 2024

Recommendation Implemented

☐ Yes ☐ No **√** Partially

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

Progress

Budgetary constraints, particularly those related to limited-duties faculty, have not made it possible to offer another section of Film 3368F/G (Film Production). We have, however, collaborated with Writing Studies to offer Writing 2204F/G (Short Flicks: An Introduction to Screen Writing), and with the Creative Arts and Production program, to afford students additional opportunities for creative self-expression. Film Studies has also extended its support to independent student filmmakers through its collaborations with the Western Undergraduate Film Society, providing mentorship, technical support, and screening facilities.

Next Steps (if applicable)

If budgetary constraints allow, we would like to offer an additional section of Film 3368F/G. We are, further, discussing with Writing Studies how we might revise pre-requisite requirements such that students registered in a module in Film Studies might have greater access to Writing 2204F/G and students registered in a module in Writing Studies might have greater access to Film 3368F/G.

Additional Comments

If applicable

Recommendation #4	**Proposed Action and Follow-up**	**Responsibility**	**Timeline**
Plan strategically for audio-visual creation literacy within the Program.	Carefully plan to include creative audio-visual literacy alongside reading and writing as fundamental critical skills, across the curriculum's teaching and assessments.	Director of Film Studies Program	Fall 2021 through Winter 2024

Recommendation Implemented

√ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially If no, or partially, is implementation on schedule with the timeline? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Progress Over the course of 2021-23, the instructors in Film Studies reviewed and discussed how to better integrate audio-visual literacy as a learning outcome in our courses, focusing in particular on Film 1022 (Introduction to Film Studies) and Film 2230F/G (Critical Reading and Writing in Film). Instructors in all courses have been encouraged to consider alternatives to the traditional essay, including the audiovisual essay and podcasts. Facilities and technical support for such assignments are now available through the Media and Sound Booth, supported by Faculty's Technical Services Unit.
Next Steps (if applicable) *What actions remain? Is there further follow-up?*
Additional Comments *If applicable*

Recommendation #5	**Proposed Action and Follow-up**	**Responsibility**	**Timeline**

Facilitate options for post-graduate or cocurricular experience in film production.	Provide clear pathways for students to pursue postgraduate training, graduate studies, and “double majors” elsewhere (e.g. The new Creative Arts Production major) to fully develop careers in creative audio-visual production.	Director of Film Studies Program	Fall 2021 through Winter 2024

Recommendation Implemented

☑ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially

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

Progress

The Program in Film Studies is not a program in audio-visual or film production; it is chiefly a program in the academic study of global cinematic forms, practices, and cultures. To provide pathways to careers in creative audio-visual production, we have partnered with several other programs. The first of these is the Creative Arts and Production program (CAP), jointly offered by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Faculty of Information and Media Studies, and Don Wright Faculty of Music. CAP is a unique, student-centred option that focuses on creativity, production, and collaboration. A CAP major must be taken alongside another major in one of the three host faculties, and pairs well with the Major Film Studies for students pursuing an honors double major degree. The other new pathway for students interested in combining their studies in Film Studies is the Minor in Page, Stage, and Screen, a module offered jointly by English Studies, Theatre Studies and Film Studies. Introduced in 2022-23, this new interdisciplinary module allows students to take courses across the five programs housed in English and Writing Studies: English, Writing, Film, Theatre, and Medieval Studies. Students can pursue interest-led studies across the programs while exploring core themes of genre and form, storytelling and adaptation through their own work and the work of others.

Next Steps (if applicable)

Building on the success of initiatives such as the CAP program, we would like to discuss the possibility of an interdisciplinary MA

program in “Screen Arts” with the Faculty of Information and Media Studies.

Additional Comments

If applicable

Note: The total number of expandable text boxes will be dependent on the number of prioritized recommendations appearing in the program’s most recent Final Assessment Report (FAR).

Continuous Program Enhancement

The modular enrolments in Film Studies have shown marked improvement in the past four years for which data is available, from 55 in 2019-20 to 100 in 2022-23, an 81.8% increase. In the past three years, we have taken several important steps to support this encouraging trend, apart from those noted above. The most significant of these has to been to revise four of the program’s five modules. These changes serve several purposes: 1) facilitating the student’s ability to understand their modular requirements (e.g. through the use of descriptive headings); 2) to fulfil modular requirements (e.g. by increasing the number of courses that can counted toward a requirement); and 3) to afford students greater flexibility in course choice (e.g. by reducing the number of required courses). These changes were approved by Senate in April 2024.

The program has also taken strides to extend its commitments to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and to address significant gaps in its offerings in global and trans-national cinemas by the addition of two new courses: Film 2259F/G (Indigenous Cinema) and Film 2242F/G (Special Topics in National Cinema: Bollywood). The first of these is a permanent course that has been added to all modules in the global cinemas category. The second is a special topics course that, enrollments permitting, may become a permanent course in the future. Both courses are currently scheduled to be offered for the first time in 2024-25.

The program’s commitment to an understanding of film as a globally diverse cultural practice is also evident in our recent collaboration with Japanese Studies (Huron); if approved, three course in our program will be added as options to the program’s

modules.

Given these trends, future growth in the program is principally a matter of resources. With only four full-time faculty members (following the death this past year of one faculty member), and three others having to be replaced in successive years owing to ill health, the program's abilities to balance popular general interest courses (e.g. Disney and Anime) with the senior-level courses required by the program's five modules will become more difficult to maintain, and leave us with fewer opportunities to develop new courses and curriculum in the future. Faculty renewal will be critical if the program is to continue to grow and provide the best learning opportunities for our students.