Biostatistics Collaborative Specialization Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

Faculty / Affiliated University College	Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry and Faculty of Science	
Degrees Offered	Collaborative Specialization (MSc and PhD)	
Approved Fields	N / A	
External Consultants	N/ A	N / A
Internal Reviewer	Prof. Louise Milligan	
Date of Site Visit	June 11 & 17 2019	
Evaluation	Not Approved	
Approval Dates	SUPR-G: November 18, 2019 SCAPA: November 27, 2019 Senate (FYI only): December 6, 2019 This section will be completed by SGPS or Associate University Secretary	
Date of Next Review		

Executive Summary

The reviewer met with faculty, students, and administrators in June 2019. General student satisfaction with the Specialization was high, however some opportunities for improvement were noted.

Significant Strengths of the Program

- The quality of research by participating faculty members was high.
- A key value of the Specialization is the enhancement of communication skills, to better enable communication between statisticians and health care professionals.

Summary of the Reviewers' Key Recommendations and Department/Faculty Responses

The Specialization provides only one activity in common between the two home programs: the course Biostats 9510A. There appears to be no research collaboration between the two departments. Students and some faculty members identified the lack of a collaborative seminar series as a shortcoming. In short, the Specialization is primarily a vehicle to allow sharing of the course Biostats 9510A. The recommendations below are intended to provide the opportunity for genuine collaboration between programs, to provide an enriched training environment for students.

	Reviewers' Recommendation	Program/Faculty Response
1. Recommendations requiring implementation	Development of a collaborative seminar series	Already doing this – but only biannually?

	Explore internship opportunities	Will continue to foster opportunities
	Provide opportunities for student interaction between departments	Seminar series and CANSSI Biostatistics Collaboration Centre
	Clarify enrolment cap.	There is no cap
	Collect data on postgraduation employment	We have these data
2. Supplementary recommendations for program improvement		

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan provides a summary of the recommendations that require action and/or follow-up. The Graduate Program Chair and/or Department Chair/Director, in consultation with SGPS and the Dean of the Faculty will be responsible for enacting and monitoring the actions noted in Implementation Plan. The details of progress made will be presented in the Deans' Annual Planning Document.

Recommendation	Proposed Action and Follow-up
Discontinue the Specialization (Does not meet the requirements for a Collaborative Specialization)	

Other Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement
In addition to the recommendations noted above, the review process may have identified other considerations to enhance or enrich the program. List any such considerations.