Surgery
Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

Faculty / Affiliated University College	Department of Surgery, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry	
Degrees Offered	Master of Science	
Approved Fields	None	
External Consultants	Dr. Markku Nousiainen, Associate Professor, University of Toronto	Dr. Fred Berry, Associate Professor, University of Alberta
Internal Reviewer	Dr. Kamran Siddiqui, Professor (SUPR-G member)	Anna Kornmuller (Graduate Student)
Date of Site Visit	January 14-15, 2019	
Evaluation	Good Quality	
Approval Dates	SUPR-G: April 15, 2019 SCAPA: May 1, 2019 Senate (FYI only): June 7, 2019	
Date of Next Review	Year of next cyclical review 2025/2026	

In accordance with Western's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Final Assessment Report provides a summary of the cyclical review, internal responses and assessment and evaluation of Graduate Program delivered by the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. This report considers the following documents: the program's self-study, the external consultants' report and the responses from the Department/School and Faculty. The Final Assessment Report identifies the strengths of the program, opportunities for program enhancement and improvement and details and prioritizes the recommendations of the external consultants and prioritizes those recommendations that are selected for implementation.

The Implementation Plan details the recommendations from the Final Assessment Report that are selected for implementation, identifies who is responsible for approving and acting on the recommendations, any action or follow-up that is required, and the timeline for completion.

The Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan is sent for approval through SUPR-G and SCAPA, then for information to Senate and the Ontario Universities' Council on Quality Assurance and is made available in a publicly accessible location on Western's IQAP website The Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan is the only document resulting from the Graduate cyclical review process that is made public, all other documents are confidential to the Program/School/Faculty and SUPR-G.

Executive Summary

The graduate program in Surgery offers a Master of Science degree. The program is going through its first cyclic review. MSc in Surgery is a 12-month program that requires the completion of 2.5 course credits (two full-courses and one half-course) and a thesis. The graduate program is tailored for physicians and most of the students enrolled in the program are residents or fellows in the Department of Surgery.

The graduate program is regarded as a strong program based on the quality of the faculty, supporting resources and student progress. A major strength of the program is its uniqueness. The learning outcomes are clearly articulated and program's requirements properly address the Graduate Degree Level Expectations. The program is well-structured and the earlier engagement of students (prior to the beginning of the program) maximizes the effective utilization of their time during graduate studies to ensure successful completion while they are still engaged in clinical activities. The program is highly regarded by both the faculty members and graduate students. Students have acknowledged that the program content has prepared them well for careers as clinician-researchers. The program has been recognized as an excellent model to train clinicians in basic scientific research and can be adapted in other clinical departments in the Schulich School of Medicine. The only weakness related to the program has been identified as the lack of visibility or exposure of the program beyond the Department of Surgery.

Significant Strengths of the Program

The following program strengths are identified in the self-study and the External Consultants' Report

- Uniqueness of the program
- Strong faculty complement and their engagement
- Program's admission requirements ensure high quality of students in the program
- Program is well-structured with well-defined milestones and early engagement of students to allow timely completion (12-month program that includes a thesis)
- Excellent research productivity of the program
- Excellent support from the Graduate office (Grad Chair and administrative staff)

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

	Reviewers' Recommendation	Program/Faculty Response
1. Recommendations requiring implementation	The description of course Surgery 9100 should be further defined to explain its 1.0 weighting	The course outline for Surgery 9100 will be revised to provide further clarification on the course structure and content, prior to the beginning of the next student cohort in Sept. 2019
	Increase participation in Faculty and University-wide scientific programs to raise the profile of program	Encourage students to attend and participate in, 1. Department of Surgery Research Day 2. London Health Research Day

		3. Western's 3MT competition
	Develop standardized procedures and duties to lessen some of the administrative roles performed by the Graduate Chair	Develop standard role descriptions for examination chairs, supervisory committee members and evaluators for colloquium presentations.
	Leverage all resources available to promote this graduate program	1. Update the MSc in Surgery program brochure. 2. Continue to send individual emails about the MSc in Surgery program to incoming Fellows and current residents and fellows in the Department. 3. Present information on the MSc in Surgery to all incoming surgical residents.
2. Supplementary recommendations for program improvement	Encourage students to apply for scholarships well in advance of their application to the Graduate program	Advertise to all incoming students and potential students about the scholarship opportunities available by direct email correspondence, and by the department newsletter and website.
	Consider and plan for potential expansion, whether this occurs in the form of increased enrollment or the development of a PhD degree	Prepare for potential future program growth by continuing to build collaborations with basic scientists across Western. This recommendation will also be considered and discussed when our program undertakes a strategic planning process.

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 Dean's Annual Planning Document.

Recommendation	Proposed Action and Follow-up
1. The description of course Surgery 9100 should be further defined to explain its 1.0 weighting	The course outline for Surgery 9100 will be revised to provide further clarification on the course structure and content
2. Increase participation in Faculty and University-wide scientific programs to raise the profile of program	Encourage students to attend and participate in, 1. Department of Surgery Research Day 2. London Health Research Day 3. Western's 3MT competition
3. Develop standardized procedures and duties to lessen some of the administrative roles performed by the Graduate Chair	Develop standard role descriptions for examination chairs, supervisor committee members and evaluators for colloquium presentations.
4. Leverage all resources available to promote this graduate program	1. Update the MSc in Surgery program brochure. 2. Continue to send individual emails about the MSc in Surgery program to incoming Fellows and current residents and fellows in the Department. 3. Present information on the MSc in Surgery to all incoming surgical residents.
5. Encourage students to apply for scholarships well in advance of their application to the Graduate program	Advertise to all incoming students and potential students about the scholarship opportunities available by direct email correspondence, and by the department newsletter and website.

Other Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

- none