Master of Public Health
Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

Faculty / Affiliated University College	Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry	
Degrees Offered	Master of Public Health (MPH)	
Approved Fields		
External Consultants	**Dr. Duncan Hunter** Associate Professor & Interim Head, Department of Public Health Sciences, Queen's University	**Dr. Kue Young** Former Dean, School of Public Health, University of Alberta
Internal Reviewer	**Dr. Jisuo Jin** Associate Dean, Faculty of Science, Western University	**Fanny Leveau** PhD Graduate Student, Department of French, Western University
Date of Site Visit	October 21–22, 2019	
Evaluation	**Good Quality**	
Approval Dates	SUPR-G: January 20, 2020 SCAPA: March 4, 2020 Senate (FYI only): March 13, 2020	
Date of Next Review	Year of next cyclical review - 2027-2028	

Executive Summary

During the site visit, the two external consultants and two Western internal reviewers interviewed the current teaching faculty members, supporting staff, the entire 2019-20 MPH class, and a group of alumni, in additional to the program Director and the Acting Dean of the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. The overall assessment of the External Consultants is that the MPH program is of high quality, as indicated by the high degree of student satisfaction despite the high tuition rate, near 100% graduation rate, and general success of transition into relevant employment. The MPH program offers a unique life-long career support starting from the program itself. The MPH program has built a good reputation since its inception only seven year ago, leading to its recent accreditation by the United States Council on Education for Public Health, which attests to its high quality. This program is unique in its case-based and group-based mode of course delivery, made possible by a team of instructors and staff who are dedicated to the success of the program and the students.

Currently, the one-year MPH program admits a cohort of 50–65 students (out of more than 500 applicants) each year. This is considered the maximum intake under the current teaching and space capacity. Given the success of the current program, the external reviewers advised against any major changes.

As explained below, the only recommendation by the external reviewers is that Schulich should make a serious effort to offer a few scholarships to strong candidates from low-income families, so as to help break the formidable financial barrier posed by the high tuition for this category of potential students, who are otherwise passionate about public health.

Significant Strengths of the Program

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

- The courses are taught using an innovative, case-based and team-based model, with a 12-week practicum. This is highly effective in teaching students work-place knowledge and skills, especially team-work skills.
- Course contents and learning outcomes are clearly mapped and defined, and align well with the mission and expectations of the program. External reviewers advise against any major changes.
- Competent and dedicated teaching faculty, excellent staff support, and very good teaching space and facilities in the Western Centre for Public Health and Family Medicine.
- Program success reflected by its near 100% graduation rate and high employment rate and continued high demand (about 50–65 intake per year out of over 500 applications).
- The program has recently received formal accreditation from the U.S. Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). This accreditation is a strong indication of the high quality of Western's MPH program, thus promoting its reputation.

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

	Reviewers' Recommendation	Program/Faculty Response
1. Recommendations requiring implementation	None	
2. Supplementary recommendations for program improvement	The high tuition barrier for potentially excellent students from low-income families be mitigated by offering a few scholarships from Schulich	The Program will request dedicated financial support from Schulich's Development Office to create two scholarships for excellent students from low-income families.

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	Responsibility
1. The high tuition barrier for potentially excellent students from low-income families be mitigated by offering a few scholarships from Schulich	Schulich's Advancement Office to make this a priority for fiscal 2020 development	Dean, and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry to ask Development Office to make this a priority

Other Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

- The team-based course delivery model is new and tends to pose challenges for some students in each year's cohort, especially in their early stage of the one-year program (note that the site visit took place in Oct. 21–22, about one and a half months after the beginning of the 2019-20 class). Interviews with alumni during the site visit indicate that students generally adapt well to this mode of course delivery as they progress through the two terms, and they spoke very positively about the team work because students from Western's MPH program tend to be well equipped to handle real-world team work situations when they transition from students to employees. Such testaments from alumni, if brought to new students in the beginning of their program each year, may help students become mentally prepared for the team-based approach.