



FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT
Executive Summary
March 2017
Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Justice
Program Review
Dean: Dr. Brian Cutler, Interim Dean

Under UOIT's Quality Assurance Framework, all degree programs are subject to a comprehensive review every eight years to ensure that they continue to meet provincial quality assurance requirements and to support their ongoing rigour and coherence.

On the completion of the program review, the self-study brief together with the reviewers' report and the assessment team's response are reviewed by the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council, and are subsequently reported to Academic Council, the Board of Governors and the Quality Council.

In 2015-2016 a program review was scheduled for the Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Justice program. This is the second review for this program and the internal assessment team is to be commended for their thoughtfulness in linking the current review with that conducted in 2007. The following provides a summary of the outcomes and action plans resulting from the review. A report from the program outlining the progress that has been made implementing the recommendations will also be put forward in eighteen months' time.

External Reviewers: Dr. Sylvie Frigon (University of Ottawa) and Dr. Otto Sanchez (University of Ontario Institute of Technology)

Site Visit: November 21-22, 2016

The Criminology & Justice Program is focused on the broader social and individual contexts that lead to criminal behaviour, and on the larger issues within the police, courts, corrections, the juvenile system and various social and government service agencies. The Faculty of Social Science and Humanities offers a four-year Criminology & Justice program and a Criminology & Justice Bridge program designed to educate students with a broad range of skills required in a variety of fields from criminal justice to law and social services. Students learn to build an integrated approach to justice services through the examination of each of the justice system's components, including the victim. Graduates will be skilled in taking leadership roles and more collaborative approaches within their own fields and within the related infrastructures of society.

Significant Strengths of the Program

- Uniquely critical orientation to Criminology
- Emphasis on experiential learning and strong commitment to students
- Faculty members committed to excellence in scholarship and teaching

- Students trained in an array of theoretical and methodological models with unparalleled access to substantive courses
- Diverse faculty and diverse courses of study within an interdisciplinary program
- Justice focus shows commitment to ensure what is taught is relevant to the community
- Majority of faculty actively involved in community organizations
- Strong support staff
- Smaller class sizes
- Internationally recognized and awarded faculty members, and leading criminologists

Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

- Lack of sufficient engagement with the community
- Experiential learning not available to all students
- No unified strategy for using technology in courses
- Many students lack solid writing, analytic, synthesis, and theory application skills
- Lack of a fourth year statistics course without faculty resource to teach higher level statistics
- Lack of resources to better support students, such as remedial programming
- Lack of a strong undergraduate academic culture
- Lack of diversity in liberal arts courses
- Over-reliance on sessional instructors

The External Review

The Review Team examined the Program's Self-Study report and conducted a site visit on November 21 and 22, 2016. During the visit, the external reviewers toured facilities at the downtown Oshawa location and met with various stakeholders. These included Associate Provost Dr. Robert Bailey, Ms. Kimberley McCartney-Young from the Quality Assurance Office, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities Dr. Brian Cutler, as well as Associate Deans, the Program Director, Criminology and Justice faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, the Senior Academic Advisor, Staff members, Teaching Assistants, and the Practicum Coordinator.

Summary of Reviewer Recommendations and Faculty Responses

Recommendation

Technologically enabled environment, part of UOIT mission: Recommend discussion towards a concerted strategy within the program

Response

A committee, tasked with forming a comprehensive approach to technological enablement, will be struck. It will first solicit feedback from program-appropriate faculty regarding goals/strategies for tech enablement, and then draft a strategic plan for tech enablement and contact appropriate entities within UOIT to assist reaching goals.

Recommendation

Increase relevance of coursework and employment. Career-oriented or "market driven" UOIT mission: Recommend considering diversifying opportunities for skill development towards employment in specific areas such as addiction, policing, and mental health. Congruent with PLO #6 (page 20).

Response

Coursework will continue to develop an emphasis on the application of the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in the 21st century workplace. Specifically, the program will continue to emphasize practical skills in specific areas such as addiction, policing and mental health, but also emphasizing the utility of critical thinking, the ability to parse information in an information rich world, and the capacity to be "nimble" in light of changing work conditions.

Recommendation

Strengthen experiential learning particularly at the end of the current Practicum Review analysis.

Response

The Faculty Academic Plan for 2016 and 2017 states their intent to "Update and/or establish MOUs with existing and potential community 3 partners *in support of student placements* and student and faculty research opportunities." The commitment does not end there but will be ongoing. The program in recent years, encouraged faculty to insert more experiential learning into existing curricula. The program will continue to seek out similar opportunities, while encouraging faculty to be creative in integrating opportunities into their courses.

Recommendation

Improving writing skills in a continuing and progressive way throughout the 4 years to assure strong writing skills by year 4.

Response

The Criminology Program plans to explore ways that changes to its curriculum can be made to improve writing skills in a progressive way throughout four years. First, an additional writing intensive course is planned in the fourth year. Second, the program will explore how writing can be implemented across developmental (ALSU 110I U) and first year courses (SSCI 191OU) by consulting existing FSSH committees that have been assigned to that task. Moreover, the Criminology Program intends to explore how our program can assist Student Life services in their effort to facilitate one-on-one support through academic specialists, and specialized programming writing, and study skills. Third, the program intends to explore how writing can be implemented across the Criminology curriculum forming Program-level subcommittees to review the current courses as a way of formulating common outcomes and guidelines.

Recommendation

Intensify current internationalization strategies. Analyze program priorities in relation to the UOIT International Strategic Plan to emphasize internationalization opportunities.

Response

The Faculty Academic Plan for 2016-17 advocates, "intensifying current internationalization strategies by analyzing program priorities in relation to the UOIT International Strategic Plan and emphasizing initiatives of international opportunities". The university is currently working on its latest strategic plan. International priorities will be re-examined in light of the latest strategic plan and the initiatives of the new Dean.

Recommendation

Strengthen Practicum Coordination by replacing second coordinator and formalizing pre-practicum preparation.

Response

In this regard Practicum Program is being reviewed with respect to efficiencies and pre-program preparation. Meanwhile, the program intends to take a more active role in practicum opportunities. The program will consider developing workshops that would be open to students and the local not-for-profit community to teach practical skills such as internal evaluations, grant writing, mediation, natural justice, policy development, etc. The program is also considering the opportunities afforded by allowing non-bridging students to take some courses at Durham College so they may take some more practical skills focused courses at Durham College as part of their degree. Finally, a "criminology day," or week is being planned that would allow for a showcase of the program. The program is considering how to build in a career component to this that brings in organizations and sets up networking opportunities for students. Decisions regarding staffing of the Practicum Office will be made by the new dean pending completion of the practicum review.

Recommendation

Continue developing strategies to increase enrolment.

Response

A Criminology Recruitment Sub-Committee, tasked with forming a strategic plan related to recruitment within the Criminology Program, will be struck. Also of note is that the faculty has an active recruitment committee with Criminology representation, but the Sub-Committee can also provide guidance to the rep. It will solicit feedback from faculty members regarding potential strategies for deployment, and create a strategic plan outlining the Criminology group's plans for future recruitment.

Recommendation

Downtown academic culture efforts, such as considering downtown residence, access to gym, cafeteria, shuttle services and/or a downtown university student centre as a gathering place (analogous to the Indigenous Resource Centre).

Response

Because of the commuter nature of FSSH student population, developing a strong student culture is important to a student's sense of belonging and affinity with the Faculty and UOIT as a whole. When UOIT established the downtown campus, the administration considered amenities such as a gym, cafeteria, shuttle service, and student centre and determined that either they were not warranted or not financially feasible. We therefore work to create and maintain culture in other ways including:

- Co-curricular events between faculties - Internships and co-ops - Student government, clubs and societies - Intramural programming and recreational facilities - Fan engagement - Volunteer activities - On-campus employment.

Recommendation

Continue pursuing approval and implementation of the Liberal Arts program.

Response

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities is actively pursuing the approval and implementation of a Liberal Studies Program. A Liberal Studies program would offer students the broad-based, cross-disciplinary education that citizen-leaders require in the 21st Century. The program aims to produce graduates who are socially conscious, technologically savvy, culturally aware, politically engaged, and economically empowered. Crucially, the program will provide an outlet for students wishing to pursue

their academic interests and professional aspirations beyond the disciplinary confines of their existing programs.

Recommendation

Increase interdisciplinarity initiatives that will facilitate across faculty activities, for instance in mental health, our speaker series, and our interdisciplinary research, which often involves students.

Response

As noted in the external review, a major asset of the Criminology program is its cross-disciplinary nature. A department structure that typically silos disciplines has been actively avoided in FSSH. There are several ongoing efforts to better harness this strength. The Faculty of Social Science and Humanities and Criminology Program are, at present, engaged in several activities and initiatives that promise to enhance its interdisciplinary profile in regards to both pedagogy and scholarship. Further efforts are also planned for the addition of new area-studies Bachelor of Arts programs (e.g., Gender Studies). Finally, in the coming years, the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities plans to develop and support a Canada Research Chair with a focus on social problems and issues (migration, mental health, homelessness, aging, terrorism, etc.) relevant to other social-science disciplines.

Plan of Action

The table below presents a timeline of the actions planned to address the recommendations from the external report.

Proposed Action	Timeline	Person/Area Responsible
Technologically enabled environment, part of UOIT mission: Recommend discussion towards a concerted strategy within the program	<p>Winter/Spring 2017: Formation of committee tasked with forming approach to technological enablement.</p> <p>Fall 2017: Committee solicits feedback from program-appropriate faculty regarding goals/strategies for tech enablement.</p> <p>Winter/Spring 2018: Committee drafts strategic plan for tech enablement and contacts appropriate entities within UOIT to assist reaching goals.</p>	<p>Criminology program faculty/staff at large</p> <p>Committee comprised of 3-5 members of Criminology program.</p> <p>UOIT offices: Knowledge mobilization, IT, Teaching and Learning Centre, library.</p>
Increase relevance of coursework and employment. Career-oriented or “market driven” UOIT mission: Recommend considering diversifying opportunities for skill development towards employment in specific areas such as addiction, policing, and mental health. Congruent with Program Learning Outcome #6 (page 20).	Winter/Spring 2017 (and ongoing): Formation of subcommittee to assess career opportunities in the aforementioned fields and others, with special emphasis on the importance and relevance of a liberal arts	All faculty

	education in a rapidly changing world.	
Strengthen experiential learning particularly at the end of the current Practicum Review analysis.	Ongoing	Individual Faculty members. Curriculum Committee could form a subcommittee to explore “best practices”
Improving writing skills in a continuing and progressive way throughout the 4 years to assure strong writing skills by year 4.	<p>Winter 2017: discuss the logistics of creating third writing intensive course in the 4th year; begin paperwork if consensus exists.</p> <p>Winter 2017: formation of appropriate program-level and faculty wide committees to examine writing across curriculum</p> <p>Fall 2017: committees meet to discuss possible ways to implement writing across the curriculum.</p>	<p>Criminology faculty</p> <p>Criminology and social sciences faculty</p> <p>Criminology and social sciences faculty</p>
Intensify current internationalization strategies. Analyze program priorities in relation to the UOIT International Strategic Plan to emphasize internationalization opportunities.	Ongoing. Subject to shifts in international relations.	All faculty.
Strengthen Practicum Coordination by replacing second coordinator and formalizing pre-practicum preparation.	Winter/Spring 2017. Committee currently active and assessing the program.	Dedicated Subcommittee
Continue developing strategies to increase enrolment.	<p>Winter/Spring 2017: Creation of a Criminology Recruitment Sub-Committee</p> <p>Fall 2017: Hold a Criminology recruitment "town hall" meeting to solicit feedback from faculty</p> <p>Winter/Spring 2018: Create a strategic plan outlining the Criminology group's plans for future recruitment.</p>	<p>Recruitment subcommittee</p> <p>Consultation with faculty and staff both within the Faculty and University throughout the drafting process.</p>

Downtown academic culture efforts, such as considering downtown residence, access to gym, cafeteria, shuttle services and/or a downtown university student centre as a gathering place (analogous to the Indigenous Resource Centre).	Ongoing	Individual faculty, working with students and student association. Public Lecture Committee.
Continue pursuing approval and implementation of the Liberal Arts program.	<p>Oct, 2016: Committee of 6 members from FSSH created and put together a Notice of Intent (NOI).</p> <p>Nov, 2016: NOI circulated to FSSH Faculty Council.</p> <p>Dec, 2016: NOI circulated to Curriculum Committee.</p> <p>Jan. 16, 2017: NOI forwarded to the Office of the Provost</p> <p>Anticipating the proposed program will be available to students in September of the following year</p>	Awaiting Provost's review and approval. Thereafter, the previously constituted committee, working with the Faculty Curriculum Committee, will develop the program in full.
Increase interdisciplinarity initiatives that will facilitate across faculty activities, for instance in mental health.	Ongoing	All Faculty Curriculum Committee HBE Research Group

Due Date for 18-Month Follow-up on Plan of Action: August 2018

Date of Next Cyclical Review: 2023-2024