



FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

March 2017

Bachelor of Science in Physics

18-Month Follow-Up

Dean: Dr. Greg Crawford

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. Program reviews involve several stages, including:

1. A comprehensive and analytical self-study brief developed by members of the program under review.
2. A site visit by academic experts who are external to and arm's length from the program who prepare a report and recommendations on ways that it may be improved based on a review of the program's self-study and supporting material, and a two day site visit involving discussions with faculty, staff and students and a tour of the facilities.
3. Development of a plan for improvement by the program and proposed timelines for implementation.

All programs that undergo a review must provide a report eighteen months after the completion of the review to gather information on the progress that has been made implementing the agreed upon plans for improvement.

In 2013-2014 a program review was scheduled for the Bachelor of Science in Physics program. The program has submitted to the Provost's Office a comprehensive chart outlining the achievements they have made relative to the action plans resulting from the review. A summary of these achievements is provided below. The summary report is reviewed by the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council, and is subsequently reported to Academic Council, the Board of Governors and the Quality Council.

The program review site-visit for the Bachelor of Science in Physics was completed October 2-3, 2014. Since that time, the Faculty made some progress in implementing the plan of action from the program review.

Co-op programs review

There is now a full-time co-op coordinator in the Faculty of Science, as recommended.

Curriculum review (e.g. course rotation, 1st year physics majors, senior electives, senior lab course) and prioritization

A first pass through the curriculum has occurred and a number of modifications submitted to the curriculum review process. However, as a part of the Faculty's strategic plan, the faculty is reviewing criteria once again, with a view to: a) allow for students to complete both a major and a minor in a reasonable timeframe and b) determine whether to develop additional physics-based programs in collaboration with other programs and Faculties.

Implementation of key curricular changes

The Faculty has already approved some changes through governance; other changes, based on the curriculum review discussed above are still in progress as of fall 2016, and planned for inclusion in the Calendar for 2017-2018.

New condensed matter/solid state course

As recommended by the Review Team, PHY 4010U Statistical Mechanics II underwent a course title change to 'Condensed Matter'. The first offering under this title will be in Winter 2018.

Next Scheduled Program Review: 2021-2022