



**FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**February 2018**  
**Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies**  
**18-Month Follow-Up**  
**Dean: Dr. Peter Stoett**

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 2014-2015, a program review was scheduled for the Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies 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 major was completed November 19-20, 2015. Since that time, the Faculty made significant progress in implementing the plan of action from the program review.

*Major program curriculum review, including:*

- *Identifying Program's comparative advantages to increase its standing as a 'program of choice' in Ontario and Canada;*
- *Explicit linking of measurable program learning objectives with evaluation methods;*
- *Carefully evaluating the efficacy of developing joint programs.*

The Faculty revised the program learning outcomes in 2016 to clearly demonstrate connections between the outcomes and methods of assessment as well as the Ministry defined Undergraduate

Degree Level Expectations and overall program design. A review of evaluation methods used in all courses was completed, and concluded that the variety of methods and the increasing level of complexity by year are well designed to attain the program learning outcomes. Additionally, the Faculty developed an agreement with the ADR Institute of Ontario (ADRIO), to have FSSH mediation courses count towards satisfying educational requirements for ADRIO membership; such an agreement can increase the program's comparative advantages, particularly with respect to the ADR specialization. The Faculty has not developed any joint programs.

*Developing 1<sup>st</sup> year "Introduction to Legal Studies" course*

The course has been developed, and approved to be offered for the first time in the winter of 2018.

*Broadening recruitment base and efforts, including:*

- *Development of a program website*
- *Exploring the possibility of developing hybrid and online courses*

The new program website has been up and running since the summer of 2016. Faculty members now consider using hybrid course format for all new courses, and Calendar descriptions for some existing courses were updated to include a hybrid mode of learning. No purely online courses have been developed to date.

*Practicum and experiential learning opportunities, including:*

- *Faculty review of the practicum*
- *Development of ideas for new experiential learning opportunities*

The faculty-wide practicum committee concluded its work in 2016; however, the program has not yet received any updates as to the changes that would be made to the practicum structure. Legal Studies faculty have been involved in ADRIO internship committee consultations, which seek to provide mediation experience to individuals considering a career in mediation; while the consultations are ongoing, ADRIO is interested in partnering with university practicum programs, which may result in development of new experiential learning opportunities for program students.

*Dedicating greater attention and resources to hiring TAs that are qualified in legal studies*

The Faculty discussed the idea of conducting a specialized training session for Legal Studies TAs, however, it was determined that a single common session would not be able to address the peculiarities of material and assignments in each given course.

There is a Legal Studies representative on the TA committee, which seeks to ensure that students who have either Legal Studies background or prior TA experience in Legal Studies courses are assigned to the Legal Studies courses. Each instructor also provides detailed guidance on course materials and assignments to their TAs.

The Faculty is considering the development of an interdisciplinary MA in Legal Studies, Political Science, and Communications; once the program is in place, it will create a pool of TAs more suitable for the Legal Studies courses.

**Next Scheduled Program Review: 2021-2023**