



FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT
February 2018
Bachelor of Science in Biological Science
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 2015/2016 a program review was scheduled for Bachelor of Science in Biological Science. 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 was completed in June 2016. Since that time, the Faculty has made some progress in implementing the plan of action from the program review.

- *Complete a curricular review, with recommendations and assessments of numbers of section reductions submitted to the Dean and Faculty Council.*

The Faculty has submitted a revised timeline of Summer 2018. Delays occurred due to reprioritization of some curricular matters (e.g., the development of new curricular streams to increase enrollment) and of some administrative duties.

- *Review distribution of traditional, online, and hybrid course offerings and revise if necessary.*

The review concluded the current number of hybrid/online courses is appropriate; there are no plans to develop more at this time.

- *Convert BIOL 3010U to a 4th year course, make BIOL 4040U a prerequisite.*

This has been completed.

- *Review distribution of lab course offerings across the curriculum and assess any new opportunities for additional in-course experiential learning.*

Completed. Developed 3 new research experience courses.

- *Seek additional funding to support lab consumables/instrument maintenance and replacement.*

The Faculty has seen some progress in this regard. A modest increase in funding for consumables, to cover inflation, was obtained for the current fiscal year; a similar request has been submitted for the next fiscal year. In addition, the Biology/Forensic Science were funded for a new genetic analyzer.

- *Development of a Biology Foundations course/revision of Math course requirements.*

This has been completed.

- *Review policy options for missed midterms.*

Program faculty discussed this and felt the current policy remains appropriate (i.e., decision-making authority would continue to be held within the Faculty of Science).

- *Review recruitment strategies.*

The strategies were reviewed. It was determined to continue to focus primarily on outreach/recruitment within the Durham region through open houses and the twice-yearly high school science day held on campus. An increase in recruitment should be realized through a new environmental biology stream.

- *Review progress on developing volunteer policy.*

A draft volunteer policy was developed within the Faculty of Science. As this is an institutional-level issue, oversight of the development and implementation of the policy was then handed off to the Office of the University Secretary and General Counsel.

Next Scheduled Program Review: 2022-2024