



**FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**April 16, 2018**

**Master of Health Science**

**18-Month Follow-Up**

**Dean: Dr. Lori Livingston**

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 the Master of Health 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 November 2015. Since that time, the Faculty has made significant progress in implementing the plan of action from the program review.

- *Develop learning outcomes for the Public Health, Kinesiology, and Health Informatics Stream and monitor via the annual Exit Survey.*

The Faculty has developed field specific learning outcomes, which have been approved by the Graduate Program Committee and Faculty Council. The 2017-18 exit survey has been revised to include questions about whether Program Learning Outcomes are being met.

- *Develop distinct stream-specific admission requirements.*

Admission requirements were revised to the following for the Fall 2017 intake and include specific requirements for Kinesiology and Health Informatics:

- Hold a four-year honours undergraduate degree or its equivalent from a recognized institution.
  - Have a minimum overall academic standing of a B (GPA: 3.0 on a 4.3 scale or 73 to 76 per cent), with a minimum B average in the last two full-time years (four semesters) of undergraduate work or equivalent.
  - Have undergraduate preparation in research methods in either quantitative or qualitative analysis. This should also include experience and training in statistics. Applicants planning to study in the field of Health Informatics should also have training or experience with computing or information technology within the health care domain.
  - Applicants planning to study in the field of Kinesiology will be expected to have an honours undergraduate degree in Kinesiology, or a related field.
  - Please make reference to a potential supervisor in your application for admission.
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- *Examine the need to offer more courses in the Kinesiology stream by: (a) reviewing the MHSc Kinesiology curriculum; and, (b) developing a five-year rolling plan for course offerings*

The Faculty has developed a five-year rolling plan of course offerings and have created and approved the following kinesiology electives:

- HLSC 5304G Adv. Ergonomics & Human Factors
  - HLSC 5305G Applied Topics in Exercise & Sports Psych
  - HLSC 5306G Adv. Exercise Physiology
  - HLSC 5324G Critical Issues in Skilled Performance
  - HLSC 5325G Practical Skills in Kinesiology
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- *Explore the financial feasibility of using a stipendiary approach to graduate course development.*

This recommendation was considered however it was noted that the Dean currently adjusts workload to include time for development of new courses, where appropriate, which has proven to be sufficient in lieu of a stipendiary approach.

- *Review the curriculum in each stream relative to other comparable programs to ensure that curriculum remains current and up-to-date.*

The Faculty commenced a review process in Fall 2017 and will continue it on an annual basis.

- *Champion the cause of Faculty of Health Sciences graduate students' presence in external funding allocations and competitions on campus.*

The Faculty offered a seminar series workshop in Fall 2017, targeted at informing students of strategies to enhance scholarship applications. This seminar will be run on an annual basis. Additionally, the Faculty has successfully lobbied to have eligible MHSc students able to be considered for SSRHC scholarship funding, in addition to NSERC and CIHR funding.

- *Create a universal course for the three streams (i.e., required Research Seminar) or the modification of the content/curriculum of the required Research Methods course.*

The Faculty has noted that a seminar course will become compulsory as of Fall 2018. The Graduate Program Committee is currently developing a revamped seminar course (pass/fail) for implementation in Fall 2019 that will coincide with the launch of the PhD program.

- *Identify and track additional metrics to measure degree program quality.*

The Faculty notes that the School of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies is developing a process for graduate course evaluations. The graduate exit survey is also being updated to obtain additional metrics on program quality.

- *Create stronger ties with alumni.*

The Faculty has created an MHSc alumni Facebook page and has invited alumni to return to speak at the research seminar series. The Faculty is also working with Communications and Marketing to ensure that MHSc relevant alumni are featured in their quarterly newsletter to alumni.

**Next Scheduled Program Review: 2022-2024**