



**18-Month Follow-Up
SUMMARY REPORT
February 2025
Master of Health Sciences
Dean: Dr. Carol Rodgers**

Under Ontario Tech University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Ontario Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), all programs are subject to a comprehensive review at least/at minimum 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. The visit involves discussions with senior academic administrators, faculty, staff, and students.
3. Submission of an external reviewers' report including recommendations on ways the program may be improved based on a review of the program's self-study brief, discussions during the site visit and supporting material.
4. Internal responses to the external review and recommendations prepared separately by the Program and Dean.
5. Development of an Implementation Plan prepared by the Dean including resource requirements and a timeline for acting on and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

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 2021-2023, a review was scheduled for the Master of Health Sciences with a site visit on April 25-27, 2023. The program has submitted to the Provost's Office a report outlining the progress they have made relative to the implementation plan resulting from the review. A summary of this progress is provided on the following pages.

	Implementation Plan Action Item(s) <i>(corresponding recommendation # from reviewers' report)</i>	Timeline	Status*	Comments from Dean on progress of implementation
1.	Revisit the three fields of study to ensure that they align with faculty expertise and are each viable focus areas to retain. Where appropriate, rebrand field(s).	Begin Fall, 2023 - this will ultimately be linked to the course-based degree. Unlikely that finalized focus areas will be confirmed until Winter 2025.	In progress	<p>The Kinesiology (KINE) and Community Public and Population Health (CPPH) fields of study align strongly with faculty expertise. Consultation on potential revision to the title of the CPPH field is ongoing (to more clearly reflect the content of the field and the expertise of faculty).</p> <p>Intake to the Health Informatics (HI) field has been paused for the Fall 2025 (i.e., 2025-2026) intake while consultation continues for how to modify this field. The majority of students currently in the HI stream are not conducting research within HI, and questions remain about the sustainability of the field due to limited number faculty members within the field. Comparison of the MHSc HI field to comparative programs in HI at other institutions suggests that the FHS MHSc HI significantly lacks HI course content.</p> <p>We aim to finalize the modifications to the title of the CPPH field and the future of the HI field Spring/Summer 2025-Fall 2025.</p>
3	Reduce the current MHSc thesis route course requirement by one course.	Fall, 2023 – course reduction process initiated [complete for 2024 entry cohort]	Complete	Major Program Modification (MPM) were approved by the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) and Academic Council in Fall 2024, and will take effect starting Fall 2025.

	Explore the development of a course-based Masters' degree with a capstone experience/practicum requirement [vs. research project pathway]	Course-work based degree – ideal 1st cohort Fall 2026.		<p>The MPM included course reductions to the KINE, HI and CPPH fields in the MHSc-Thesis program. KINE and HI were reduced by two courses, and CPPH was reduced by one course. One core course common to all fields was removed as a result of course mapping exercise (see below).</p> <p>The MPM also changed our previous MHSc-Project option into a course-based MHSc for all our existing fields. Applications to the course-based MHSc are being accepted for a 1st cohort in Fall 2025 (pending review and suitability of applications).</p>
4.	Continue to stress the importance of effective program marketing to central communication and other senior administration officials	Ongoing	Continuous	<p>Initial meetings have been held with Associate Deans and staff of SGPS to identify opportunities and strategies for enhancing marketing of FHS Graduate Programs (with a particular focus on course-based options).</p> <p>Within FHS, the Associate Deans of Undergraduate Studies and Graduate Studies have begun to coordinate graduate program marketing with undergraduate program marketing to raise awareness about opportunities early. We have also begun raising awareness of graduate program opportunities within internal 2nd to 4th year undergraduate courses, as well Ridgeback Varsity Athletes.</p> <p>We are also in the process of creating a revised FHS Strategic Research Plan, which will include outward facing material/web content that can be used to enhance marketing of our graduate programs.</p> <p>Similarly, we are in the process of creating the first FHS Annual Research Report, which we can also</p>

				plan to use to generate marketing material for our graduate programs (i.e., web content, promotional materials and social media content).
6.	Re-format the graduate seminar	<p>Currently in progress.</p> <p>Implementation of graduate research conference, planned for spring 2024.</p> <p>Altered seminar content – pilot modules (Fall/Winter 2023/2024)/discussions related to student issues impacting mental health (balancing TAs, etc; supervisor expectations).</p> <p>Fall 2023 – will be F2F format to create more opportunities for engagement/socialization.</p>	In progress	<p>Implementation of a graduate research conference has been delayed to plan a possible coordination with our undergraduate research practicum poster day, and to assess graduate student involvement in planning and coordination. We are assessing feasibility for spring 2026.</p> <p>There have been significant changes to the graduate seminar. Seminar content since Fall 2023 has been significantly modified to address a range of student experiences.</p> <p>Specific seminars have been added to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) better prepare and train students to manage TA responsibilities and expectations, ii) navigate student-supervisor expectations and inter-personal dynamics, with an emphasis on the progress report process, and iii) prepare students for the final thesis examination process. <p>We have also incorporated multiple seminars where SGPS staff have attended to present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) resources available to graduate students, and ii) introduce students to the Graduate Academic Affairs Specialist. <p>Seminars have moved face-to-face to increase engagement and opportunities for better</p>

				interaction with ADRGS and the Graduate Program Assistant.
7.	<p>Conduct a course mapping exercise – assess overlap between courses; learning outcome attainment.</p> <p>Revise current required course to reduce overlap and reflect broader overview of research process, etc.</p>	<p>Fall 2023 – completed by Spring 2024. Revised required course delivery Fall 2024.</p>	Complete	<p>This has been completed as part of the MPM to the MHsc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction of courses in KINE and HI - Removal of Health Research Approaches from all MHSc fields to reduce overlap between field-specific core courses. - Addition of Statistics or Qual RM as core course(s) to all field to better reflect research process. - Change in course codes to 6000-level to increase grad electives options for students. <p>Additional course mapping exercises may be needed as changes to other programs (MScN) and fields emerge.</p>

***Process Status Legend:**

Complete: Accomplished action item; no further steps required.

Continuous: Initial action item complete but requires ongoing monitoring and/or enhancement.

In Progress: Progress on the action item has been initiated but is not complete at this time. Outline all steps taken in the comment's column.

On Hold: Unable to complete due to other dependent factor(s).

Cancelled: Item no longer relevant or resources unavailable.

This summary report will be sent for approval to the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council (USC or GSC), and will subsequently be reported to Academic Council. It will then be posted on the Ontario Tech corporate website.

Next Scheduled Program Review: 2029-2031