FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT
Executive Summary
Cyclical Program Review

Degree Program:	**Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies**
Components:	**Alternative Dispute Resolution; Human Rights Law; Information Law; Legal Studies**
Dean:	**Dr. Peter Stoett**
Date:	**July 11, 2023**

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.

In academic years 2021-2023 a program review was scheduled for Legal Studies. This is the second program review for this program. A timeline of the review is provided below.

Program Review Timeline	Date
Program Review start date:	**Sept 24, 2021**
Self Study submitted/approved:	**Jan 13, 2023**
Site Visit:	**Mar 30–Apr 3, 2023**
External Reviewers Report received:	**May 11, 2023**
Program Response received:	**June 12, 2023**
Decanal Response received:	**June 29, 2023**

The Legal Studies program is a high-quality program with productive researchers working in a very collegial environment to ensure student success. Despite the small size of the teaching complement, they deliver innovative and distinctive courses and curriculum. The Reviewers recommend that the program reconsider some of the

program requirements and specializations, in order to make the specializations more flexible and attractive for students and to lighten the load on faculty.

During the virtual site visit, the reviewers met with the following groups and individuals: members of the Faculty as well as key stakeholders at the University including Dr. Lori Livingston, Provost; Dr. Peter Stoett – Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities; Dr. Jen Rinaldi – Undergraduate Program Director; Stephen Thickett – Director of Planning and Operations (Student Life); Sarah Rasile – Director, Student Success (Student Life); Emily Tufts – Associate University Librarian; members of the internal assessment team and a number of faculty, staff, and students.

The external reviewers identified 5 recommendations identifying specific steps to be taken to improve the program. The reviewers make recommendations regarding program structure, specializations and faculty complement, reviewing the diversity of needs across different cohorts. The prioritized list of recommendations is available in the Implementation Plan.

A Final Assessment Report (FAR) has been prepared to synthesize the reports and recommendations resulting from the review, identifying the strengths of the program as well as the opportunities for program improvement and enhancement. The Implementation Plan (IP) presents a timeline of the follow-up and resource requirements addressing the recommendations from the external reviewers' report. Both documents, accompanied by this Executive Summary (ES), were delivered to the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council (USC/GSC) and approved on November 21, 2023.

Governance	Document(s)	Type of review	Date
Faculty Council	IP	Feedback	*October 30, 2023*
Resource Committee	IP	Resource review	August 21, 2023
USC/GSC	FAR, ES, IP	Approval	*November 21 , 2023*
Quality Council	FAR, ES, IP	QAF requirement	
Academic Council	ES, IP	For information	
Board of Governors	ES, IP	For information	
Corporate Website	ES, IP	QAF requirement	

Due Date for 18-Month Follow-up Report: January 12, 2025

Date of Next Cyclical Review: **2029-2031**
Timeframe for associated site visit: **Fall 2030**

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
June 26, 2023
Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies
Program Review
Dean: Dr. Peter Stoett

The Implementation Plan is a critical outcome of the Cyclical Program Review process. The Dean solicits feedback on the Implementation Plan through Faculty Council and the plan is reviewed by the Provost, through the Resource Committee, to examine resource implications and allocations. A Final Assessment Report (FAR) and Executive Summary are prepared synthesizing the program review reports and responses, following review of the Implementation Plan by the Resource Committee. The plan proceeds through Ontario Tech's governance process and is posted on the corporate website.

The table below presents a timeline of the follow-up and resource requirements addressing the recommendations from the external reviewers' report.

Recommendation *(corresponding # from reviewers' report)*	Action Item(s)	Specify role of person responsible	Timeline for action and monitoring	Resource Requirements
1. **Re-evaluate specializations within the program**	Consult with UPD on specializations and possible changes; consultations with students; explore summer course options.	UPD and Dean	Over the 2023-2024 academic year	Nothing immediate

2/3.	**Addressing the unique challenges facing Advanced Entry students**	Create a taskforce to identify the challenges advanced entry students face, develop a plan to address the challenges, and monitor/report on the results.	UPDs of all programs Associate Dean, Undergraduate Student Experience Academic Advising Manager Student Life representatives	Over the 2023-2025 academic years	Nothing immediate; could entail a new course offering (perhaps via Continuing Ed); some retraining of academic advisors
5	**Adding to Faculty complement with new hires.**	Appointment of Teaching Faculty hire to do the work of an ongoing LTFM and allow for another service contributor.	Provost and Dean	2023-24	TF Position in Legal Studies

*The Dean shall be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the Implementation Plan.

Recommendations not Addressed and Rationale

#	Recommendation not Addressed	Rationale
4	Student choice menu	We have just renovated first-year requirements and want to see how this plays out over the next three years

Due Date for 18-Month Follow-up Report: January 12, 2025
Date of Next Cyclical Review: 2029-2031