



18-MONTH FOLLOW-UP REPORT

Cyclical Program Review

FACULTY: Faculty of Business and Information Technology
PROGRAM: Master of IT Security (MITS & MITS-AI)
DATE: 10 March 2026
PREPARED BY: Dr. Carolyn McGregor AM

This program review was completed in January 2025. The chart below outlines the progress that has been made in implementing the agreed upon plans for improvement.

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 Information Technology Security with a site visit on March 5-6, 2024. 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 below.

Implementation Plan Action Item(s) (corresponding recommendation # from reviewers' report)		Timeline	Status*	Comments from Dean on progress of implementation
1.	<i>Evaluate program size and propose growth plan for the 2 and 5 year horizons with contingency plans according to external trends.</i>	<i>Initial report to Dean by May 2025 and then again in May 2026.</i>	1. IN PROGRESS.	We are considering a third section model and assessing the feasibility of developing a fully online MITS-Online program within the next 2-5 years. This requires evaluation of resourcing and market demand analysis.
2	<i>Promote the program to Ontario Tech Alumni</i> <i>Explore marketing campaigns within the province and report options to Dean</i> <i>Continue to consider EDI in attracting and accepting students</i>	<i>Start in 2025-2026 application Cycle</i> <i>Provide options to Dean by early 2025</i> <i>Continuous</i>	2. IN PROGRESS.	Used marketing and communications to aid in the marketing of the program. Working with the Alumni committee to promote to alumni on a regular (semester) basis. We are enabling diversity and equity within the MITS-GOV field and promoting/marketing the program to individuals in non-stem fields.
3	<i>Hire more faculty members to support the program</i> <i>Hire an additional graduate program assistant</i>	<i>One TTT position hired in 2024. A TF position in Networking and IT Security being finalized for July 2025</i> <i>Early 2025</i>	3. CONTINUOUS.	Currently hiring a TF for MITS for the 2026/27 year (Open Position – advertised) We are actively pursuing a graduate program assistant (identified), expected fill in Summer 2026.
4	<i>Explore program needs for equipment and resources and report to the Dean for decision</i>	<i>2025-2026 academic year</i>	4. COMPLETE AND CONTINUOUS.	Equipment/Resources: expansion to MITS-Online will require additional resourcing. Current resources are shared with the undergrad and graduate program. Requests have been submitted.

				Additional TTT in IT Security area has received initial approval from Provost office and the Dean is progression to hiring process approvals. An LTFM coverage for 2026/27 has been requested with the goal to complete the hire for a Sept 2027 TTT start.
6	<i>Evaluate current specializations and report on their performance and possible new specializations</i>	<i>2026-2027 academic year (after we have a track record for the newer specializations)</i>	6. COMPLETE AND CONTINUOUS.	- Added Governance Specialization. Interest in all 3 specializations is healthy (market relevance is good). - New Specializations are being considered such as MITS-Online. - Consider a potential new MITS (Finance) specialization and the potential for shared courses between MITS and MFDA as well as a new Certificate the Dean is working to launch in the Fall for Cybersecurity in FinTech.
7	<i>Continue to work with the RO and SGPS to streamline application processing</i> <i>Hire additional graduate program staff member at FBIT</i>	<i>Report on progress after 2025-2026 admission cycle</i> <i>Early 2025</i>	7. COMPLETE.	Only non-standard applicants are handled directly by FBIT. <see above> RE: Graduate assistant.
8	<i>Develop a plan for the 2025-2026 course offerings</i>	<i>May 2025 for the 25-26 academic year and then May 2026 for the year after</i>	8. CONTINUOUS.	The Dean is working to introduce a new six module Certificate with continuous learning to launch in the Fall for Cybersecurity in FinTech. Currently progressing a TF Finance hire with the potential for scope to provide coverage for cybersecurity in Finance course.
9	<i>Plan networking and orientation events for the 2025-2026</i>	<i>Have plan ready for July 2025</i>	9. CONTINUOUS.	- Fall and Winter orientation is completed at week 1 or 2 of each semester. Complemented by SGPS central events for all graduate students.
10	<i>Develop a framework for coop and internship resources</i>	<i>Framework ready by December 2025</i>	10. IN PROGRESS	Internship framework is in development by experiential central (CEELD) within the University and is applicable to the MITS program.

	<i>and support available to MITS students</i>			
11	<i>Establish a new advisory board with clear mandate and meeting plans</i>	<i>Progress report by July 2025 and advisory board in place by January 2026</i>	11. IN PROGRESS:	- PAB process being confirmed and GPD and Faculty are identifying potential PAB members. First PAB meeting will be held in April 2026

***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.

Additional comments:

- *In establishing the new PhD Cybersecurity, we have developed a MITS-specific pathway for admission for MITS students interested in furthering their knowledge and research endeavours. This adds additional value to the MITS program for students pursuing a research pathway.*
- *We have piloted a new six module Certificate in the Foundations of Space and Cybersecurity through a partnership with Continuous Learning and Space Career Academy and enable course credit for a MITS elective for the certificate providing students with new opportunities to learn about cybersecurity in Space.*

This 18-month follow-up report will be sent to the Resource Committee for review. The Committee may recommend further monitoring of outstanding items on a case-by-case basis. A summary of this report will be prepared and approved by the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council (USC/GSC), reported to Academic Council, and posted on the Ontario Tech corporate website.

Next Scheduled Program Review: 2029-2031