

Office of the Vice President
Academic and Research
Algoma University
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW

PROGRAM	SENATE APPROVAL DATE	PREPARED BY
Sociology	May 7, 2021	Acting Academic Dean

A. Summary of review process and listing of programs under review

Self-study review timeline	Date
1. Self-study received by the CAO	November 23, 2019
2. Site visit conducted	August 26, 2020
3. Reviewers' report received	November 2, 2020
4. Department's response received	January 5, 2021
5. CAO's response received	January 27, 2021
6. Report on Program Quality approved by the Quality Assurance Committee	February 11, 2021
7. Final Assessment Report approved by	May 7, 2021

The members of the Review Committee were:

- Dr. Chris Sanders (Lakehead University)
- Dr. Alan Law (Trent University)

The academic programs offered by the Department which were examined as part of the review included:

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Single Major Sociology
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Combined Major Sociology
- Bachelor of Arts (General) Single Major Sociology
- Bachelor of Arts (General) Combined Major Sociology
- Honours Diploma in Sociology
- Minor in Sociology and
- Human Development Minor.

This review was launched under the terms and conditions of the IQAP approved by Senate on November 1, 2013 and ratified by the Quality Council on December 13, 2013. Steps following the submission of the departmental response followed the terms and conditions of the IQAP approved by Senate on September 8, 2017 and re-ratified by Quality Council on April 20, 2018.

B. Implementation Plan

Below are the recommendations from the Review that require further actions, together with the specific unit or position responsible for executing it, action timelines and required resources.

Recommendations	Responsible for Leading Follow-Up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation	Required Resources
Continue developing co-delivered programming with interested programs (recommendations 1, 4, 19, Report on Program Quality (RPQ))	Departmental Chair	2021-22	Time to review the current courses and develop a strategy. Meet with cognate disciplines and develop potential courses for cross-listing

Leverage community connectedness to provide hands-on value for 'job oriented' students (recommendations 2, 10, 11 RPQ)	Departmental Chair	2021-22	Continue to work on Health, Wellness and Addictions Certificate
Identify and engage with institutional supports to enhance work-integrated learning (WIL) opportunities (recommendation 21, 22, RPQ)	Departmental Chair	Ongoing	We will work with the Director of Experiential Learning and International Affairs to explore the type and extent of supports needed to address the concerns indicated by the external reviewers. We need a budget for supplies and space (labs) to carry out experiential work
Develop a pragmatic fourth year option to help retention rates from year 3 to 4 (recommendations 5, 12 RPQ)	Departmental Chair	Ongoing	We need time to examine the practices/approaches of cognate departments to explore possible solutions. We need office Space; computer equipment and software - eg Statistica; Otter - transcription software) to conduct field research. We need to work with the Registrar's Office to support the credentialing process.
Explore the viability of online learning to increase the frequency of course offerings (recommendation 6, RPQ)	Departmental Chair	Ongoing	Support from the Registrar's office to allow more courses to be offered and cycled more regularly

Offer a pragmatic engagement course, similar to the 4th year thesis, in the 3-year degree (recommendation 16, RPQ)	Departmental Chair	Ongoing	We are open to working with Dawn White to get support in the development of an experiential learning course that fits the objectives of the Sociology program.
Redesign the thesis course so that workload is more equally distributed across the semesters (recommendation 18, RPQ)	Departmental Chair	Ongoing	
Consider innovative solutions and expansion to campuses in larger urban areas to improve the availability of PT faculty candidates (recommendation 20, RPQ)	Departmental Chair	Spring/Summer 2021	We are willing to work with APPCOM once the vision and objectives, as well as the GTA program needs for Brampton are clearly defined so as to make an informed decision regarding the courses we are able to develop and deliver.
Work with the Recruitment Office to develop innovative ways to engage with local high school communities (recommendation 3, RPQ)	Departmental Chair	Spring/summer 2021	Recruitment office to provide support for social media engagement. We will work with Communications so Sociology faculty can participate in recruitment and marketing of the Department. We will also continuously work with the RAC/VPAR to highlight the research and impact of Sociology faculty.