

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
Biology	January 14, 2022	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	October 1, 2020
2. Site visit conducted	March 16, 2020
3. Reviewers' report received	April 22, 2021
4. Department's response received	May 30, 2021
5. CAO's response received	July 7, 2021
6. Report on Program Quality approved by the Quality Assurance Committee	September 16, 2021
7. Final Assessment Report approved by	January 14, 2022

The members of the Review Committee were:

- Dr. Heather Hunt (Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of New Brunswick)
- Dr. Matthew Smith (Professor, Department of Biology, Wilfrid Laurier University)

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

- Bachelor of Science (Honours) Biology
- Bachelor of Science (General) in Biology
- Honours Diploma in Biology
- Specialization in Health Sciences
- Minor in Biology
- Certificate in Health Sciences
- Graduate Certificate in Health Sciences

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.

Nr.	Recommendation	Responsible for Leading Follow-Up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation	Required Resources
1.	Work with the VP Nyaagaaniid, Student Success & Anishnaabe Initiatives, and other support staff on campus and in the	All FT and PT Faculty, Department Chair	Ongoing and continuing (increase year-on-year in individual courses; develop	Office of the VP Nyaagaaniid, Student Success & Anishinaabe Initiatives

	community, to thoughtfully and effectively incorporate Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing into the curriculum where it makes Sense.		a new course within 2 years with consultation)	
2.	Increase frequency and breadth of offerings of courses as enrollment grows to maintain small class sizes, increase flexibility in start time in the program, and provide more choice for students at the 2nd to 4th year levels. Increased breadth of electives should be considered in all areas taught by the department (biology, chemistry, and biochemistry courses).	Department Chair	Ongoing and continuing (popular courses offered more often to increase with student numbers - current roster includes more electives and new special topics; continue to expand)	
3.	Consider establishing more college pathways into the program, if appropriate partner programs can be identified, as a way to increase enrollment and raise the profile of Algoma Biology even further	Department Chair and FT faculty, Registrar	Ongoing and continuing (as identified)	Time to devote to curriculum mapping
4.	Continue to seek funding to support research opportunities for Indigenous students, identified as a planned enhancement in the self study	Department Chair and FT faculty, Head of SLSE	Ongoing and continuing; Currently support as many NSERC USRA as have expressed interest; continue to encourage Indigenous students to apply	
5.	The department should continue to monitor student success in the program and to survey graduates with the goal of assessing whether curriculum changes that were implemented following	Department Chair, Registrar, Alumni Office	Ongoing (surveys completed for self-study will be updated every 3-4 years)	Data (e.g., from self-study surveys, Alumni Office)

	the previous review are having their intended effect			
6.	In consultation with the Registrar, monitor student retention and graduation rates closely over the coming years to assess whether changes to admission requirements and the curriculum are having a positive impact.	Department Chair, Registrar	Ongoing (but also continue to add supports for retention while monitoring data)	Data (from Registrar)
7.	Revisit admission requirements for domestic students in consultation with the Registrar in the future once more data are available to accurately assess the most recent changes	Department Chair, Registrar	Ongoing (if change warranted based on data, we will increase admission requirements)	Data (from Registrar)