
Final Assessment Report- Executive Summary

LAW AND JUSTICE PROGRAM

2024-25

To: Algoma University Senate

From: Interim Vice President, Academic and Research

Date: June 2026

In accordance with the Algoma University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), this Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan provide a synthesis of the cyclical program review process (and related outcomes) of Algoma University Law and Justice programming, including: Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Law and Justice- Single Major [BA4.JURI]; Bachelor of Arts (Honours)- Combined Major [BA4.xxxx.JURI] or [BA4.JURI.xxxx]; Bachelor of Arts (General)- Single Major [BA3.JURI]; and Bachelor of Arts (General) Law and Justice- Combined Major [BA3.xxxx.JURI] or [BA3.JURI.xxxx]. This report identifies the program's strengths, as well as opportunities for improvement and enhancement. The report sets out and prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation.

The report includes an Implementation Plan that identifies (a) what bodies are responsible for approving the recommendations set out in the Final Assessment Report, (b) what bodies are responsible for providing any resources made necessary by the recommendations, (c) any changes in the organization, policy or governance that will be necessary to meet the recommendations, (d) what bodies are responsible for acting on those recommendations, and (e) the timelines for acting on and monitoring the implementation of those recommendations.

Cyclical Program Review Summary for the Psychology Program

The Law and Justice Self Study Committee submitted the completed self-study to the Acting Academic Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences on August 1, 2025, who shared it with the CAO Office on August 1, 2025. The Quality Assurance Committee approved the Self-Study and recommended it for external review at its next meeting on August 25, 2025. The self-study included an analysis of program strengths and areas for improvement informed by quantitative data analysis, feedback from students, and an analysis of the program curriculum. Included were the CVs for full-time faculty, course outlines, and student survey results.

Two arm's length reviewers were selected by the Quality Assurance Committee of the Senate to conduct the external review. The reviewers (Dr. Umut Ozsu, Carleton University and Dr. Jennifer Leitch, Trinity College) were provided with a briefing package and conducted a virtual site visit on October 24, 2025. The external reviewers met with members of the Self-Study Committee, Department faculty, the Department Chair, academic and administrative unit heads, including the Interim Vice President, Academic and Research/ Associate Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies/ Acting Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Associate University Registrar, the Director of Information Technology, the University Librarian, the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, Senior Specialist, Learning Management System, the Manager of Quality Assurance and current students and alumni of the program.

The reviewers submitted the Reviewers' Report on the Law and Justice program on November 27, 2025. In their report, the external reviewers provided feedback on each of the evaluative criteria in the IQAP. The objectives, admission standards, curriculum, teaching and assessment, and quality indicators were assessed for the programs under review.

The reviewers provided 6 recommendations for improvement of the Law and Justice program.

Below you will find a summary of the findings and recommendations.

Summary of Significant Program Strengths

- Distinctive alignment with political science: The Algoma University Law and Justice program's close relationship with the Political Science program, including cross-listed courses, gives it a unique academic identity and facilitates the smooth operation of all degree offerings within the Department of Law and Politics.
- Small class sizes and high faculty engagement: the Law and Justice program is structured to allow a ladder approach through seminar-style pedagogy, personalized advising, and strong support for law school and graduate applications, while effectively utilizing qualified sessional instructors.
- Robust preparation for further study: The Law and Justice program's liberal arts, theory-focused curriculum helps students develop critical thinking, research, and writing skills that are well-suited for graduate study. A comprehensive revision in Fall 2023 helped sharpen the program's academic focus by adding mandatory research and writing requirements for students in the Honours option. The introduction of clearer Honour and Non-Honours distinctions positioned the program for improved student outcomes.
- Meaningful Indigenous content integration: The Law and Justice program has embedded Indigenous legal perspectives throughout the curriculum, including two dedicated courses (JURI3106 Canadian Law and Policy and Indigenous Peoples; JURI3107 Treaty Relations) that reflect and support the university's Special Mission.

Summary of Recommendations

1. Pursue the hiring/cross-appointment of an indigenous legal scholar in Law and Justice who could teach courses on indigenous law and Canada's legal relationship with indigenous peoples;
2. Hire a second full time faculty member whose scholarship focuses on private law in order to strengthen the Law and Justice program's broad foundational base;
3. Facilitate the development of more cross-disciplinary arrangements with different faculties within Algoma University that would serve to strengthen both the Law and Justice program as well as the other programs;
4. Work with the broader university to develop accurate recruitment messaging about the Law and Justice program, what it is and what it can offer students;
5. Track the students' paths from the Law and Justice program and begin to build a strong alumni base that provides data on where students are going after they graduate, and serve as a source of support to the program;
6. And longer term, consider the development of experiential learning programs that could effectively put the critical education provided in the Law and Justice program to positive effect in the communities in which it is situated.

Program Quality Outcome

The Quality Assurance Committee of the Senate discussed the distinguishing features of the Law and Justice programming described by both the Self-Study Committee and the Reviewers. The Quality Assurance Committee drafted and approved the Report on Program Quality on March 10, 2026 and rated the program as being **"Good quality – QualCom has no serious concerns about program quality, as it is apparent that**

students are receiving a sound educational experience. The number and nature of the recommendations for quality enhancement, while they may be significant, do not impact the overall quality or viability of the program”.

The Law and Justice program shall prepare a report of the status of the agreed-upon Implementation Plan 18 months following Senate approval of the Final Assessment Report. This report shall be submitted via the Office of the CAO to the Quality Assurance Committee for review. The date of the next Law and Justice program review is 2031-32.

Implementation Plan

The Academic Dean was asked to review the Report on Program Quality and rank the recommendations. The Dean completed the prioritization practice and informed the Department on April 13, 2026. The Department Chair submitted the draft Implementation Plan to the Designate of CAO on April 21, 2026. The Quality Assurance Committee (QualCom) approved the draft Final Assessment Report and the Implementation Plan on May 12, 2026. Items in the chart below are ordered according to the ranking and priority level provided by the Academic Dean.

Rec. Nr.	Recommendations	Who is responsible?	What resources are required?	Timeline
NA	RECOMMENDATION 1: Pursue the hiring/cross-appointment of an Indigenous legal scholar in Law and Justice who could teach courses on Indigenous law and Canada's legal relationship with Indigenous peoples			
NA	RECOMMENDATION 2: Hire a second full-time faculty member whose scholarship focuses on private law in order to strengthen the Law and Justice program's broad foundational base			
2	RECOMMENDATION 3: Facilitate the development of more cross-disciplinary arrangements with different faculties within Algoma University that would serve to strengthen both the Law and Justice program as well as the other programs	Julian Hermida, Kelly DeLuca, Trevor Tchir	This will depend on what arrangements consultation leads to - it might include, for example, a proposed new hire. The consultation itself requires no new resources.	One year (Spring 2027)
1	RECOMMENDATION 4: Work with the broader university to develop accurate recruitment messaging about the Law and Justice program, what it is and what it can offer students	Trevor Tchir, Chair of Dept	none	One year (Spring 2027)

NA	RECOMMENDATION 5: Track the students' paths from the Law and Justice program and begin to build a strong alumni base that provides data on where students are going after they graduate, and serve as a source of support to the program			
----	--	--	--	--
