

2022-2023



Annual Report

Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement (OAQE)

*Supporting Academic Excellence and Innovation
Through Continuous Program Enhancement*

Now in its second year, the OAQE continues to support Western's academic programs through cyclical review as well as program proposal and approval processes. Building off a newly ratified IQAP in August 2022, renewed templates and forms, and constant collaborations with colleagues at the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS), the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and the University Secretariat (to name but a few...), the OAQE aims to make academic quality assurance ever more seamless and meaningful.

Rooted in an enhancement-oriented ethos, the work associated with program reviews is increasingly about uncovering and reflecting on questions most important to programs, so that programs can collect feedback, renew their vision and craft a plan for the years ahead. Cyclical review is an opportunity to focus on the intended, experienced and ideal outcomes of the program and to examine if components such as curriculum, policy, operations and student supports continue to align optimally in helping students achieve the outcomes.

A few examples of new initiatives to help scaffold programs in their reflections include: 1) [a short support resource](#) that aims to outline common examples of how academic programs can embed the principles of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion – Decolonization, Indigenization & Accessibility (EDI-DIA) into their design, learning outcomes, procedures, and operations; and 2) the evolving [QA Academy training program](#) that has elevated and enriched the role of student reviewers as members of site visit reviewer panels – integral in helping address gaps between intended and experienced outcomes.

Practicing what is preached, the OAQE began a process to audit Western's quality assurance processes and practices in winter 2023. Led by the province's Quality Council, this process has involved the completion of an institutional self-study, a review of institutional documentation and of six case examples of recent program reviews and new program proposals. In November 2023, an audit team composed of scholars from across the province will visit Western for a three-day collection of meetings before submitting a report with general findings and recommendations.

With preparations for, and follow-up from, this audit process as a focal point, the 2023-2024 academic year will very much be centered around enhancement – taking stock of current and evolving quality assurance processes and practices and crafting short, medium and long-term plans to implement and further strengthen the core mission of the OAQE, as articulated in [its strategy map](#).

Programmatic excellence is a collective effort that is best done in a collaborative and participatory way. With this as a standard, we have much to celebrate this year. The palpable energy and crosspollination of creative ideas around continued program enhancement – across programs, Faculties and institutional support units – is inspiring and positions Western well in our mission to “educate, support, and encourage leaders who think and act boldly in response to the grand challenges of our time.”

Jovan Groen, Ph.D.

Director of Academic Quality and Enhancement



New Programs

Undergraduate

Combined Degree Program in Arts and Humanities and Business Administration
Combined Degree Program in Chemical Engineering and Foods and Nutrition
Honours Specialization in Applied Psychology (King's)
Major in Nutrition Management (Brescia)

Graduate

Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance MSc
Global Health Systems MHSc
Business and Sustainability G.Dip
Climate Risk Assessment and Opportunity G.Dip

14 Undergraduate Programs

(10 completed | 4 in progress)

1 @  3 @ 

2 @  8 @ 
Western

Cyclical Program Reviews



21 Graduate Programs

(11 completed | 10 in progress)

51 Across All Programs

35% (18) Changes to Program Requirements or Learning Outcomes

24% (12) Addition of a New Field, Minor Module or Certificate

24% (12) Program, Field or Module Closure

11% (6) Program Name Changes

6% (4) Integration of a Work-Integrated Learning Option

2% (1) Change in Degree Designation



Major Modifications



Institutional Origin of This Year's 52 External Reviewers

Western's Academic Quality & Enhancement Team

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Visit the OAQE website @ <https://oage.uwo.ca/>

Key Partners

- School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
- Office of the Vice-Provost Academic Programs
- Centre for Teaching and Learning
- University Secretariat
- Office of Institutional Planning and Budgeting
- Office of the Registrar
- Western Libraries
- Office of the Vice Provost, Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty
- Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Western Alumni



Western's OAQE works to ensure the quality of the University's undergraduate and graduate academic programs by leading quality assurance and enhancement processes in partnership with academic leaders and administrators across all departments, faculties, schools, and support units.

2022-2023 Final Assessment Reports

With a second year behind us, we have the advantage of starting to see trends across dozens of reviews from all Faculties and levels of study. For instance, program self-studies are becoming ever more iterative, adaptive and dialectical – instead of merely describing the current state of a program, self-studies have increasingly showcased an analysis of feedback and program data to look forward, vision and plan more explicitly. A particular trend of note includes more concerted reflections on Equity Diversity, Inclusion, Decolonization and Indigenization in the work of programs, and their connection with their disciplines, the student body, the campus and the community at large. Examples include forming dedicated committees to assess and implement EDID initiatives, incorporation of EDID as a standing agenda item in program committee meetings, a survey of EDID content across program curricula, integration of external EDID expertise via workshops and guest speakers, and revisiting program admission and progression policy and practice with an EDID lens.

To that end, as briefly mentioned earlier in this report, the OAQE in partnership with Western Libraries, the Office of Equity Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and the Centre for Teaching and Learning has worked to develop [a support resource](#) to leverage program review as a strategic opportunity to bolster equitable, inclusive, and accessible policy and practice, to decolonize curriculum and pedagogy, and to integrate Indigenous perspectives, scholarship, and ways of knowing into our programs. We hope that more focused prompts in the self-study templates and this resource, among others, will help usher in more robust and meaningful reflections and planning.

The following programs were reviewed during this academic year. The full versions of each of the Final Assessment Reports (FARs) can be found on [the OAQE website](#), by using the hyperlinks embedded in the program names below.

Cyclical Program Reviews

Don Wright Faculty of Music

- I. Music, DMA, MA; Music Theory, MA; Musicology, MMus, PhD (Pending final approval)

Faculty of Arts & Humanities

- I. [Medieval Studies, BA](#)
- II. Visual Arts, MA, MFA, PhD (Pending final approval)

Faculty of Engineering

- I. [Electrical and Computer Engineering, MEng, MEng, MEng, PhD](#) (Approved in fall 2022)
- II. [Civil and Environmental Engineering, MEng, MEng, MEng, PhD](#) (Approved in fall 2022)
- III. [Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, MEng, MEng, MEng, PhD](#) (Approved in fall 2022)

Faculty of Health Sciences

- I. [Nursing \(Collaborative Western/Fanshawe\), BScN](#)
- II. [Nursing, MN, MScN, PhD](#)

Faculty of Information and Media Studies

- I. [Master of Media in Journalism & Communication, MMJC](#)

Faculty of Science

- I. [Computer Science, MSc, PhD](#) (Approved in fall 2022)
- II. Astronomy & Physics, MSc, PhD (Pending final approval)
- III. Environment and Sustainability, MES (Pending final approval)

Faculty of Social Science

- I. [Sociology, BA](#)
- II. [DAN Management & Organizational Studies, BMOS](#)
- III. [Management of Applied Science, MMASc \(Interdisciplinary\)](#)
- IV. [Public Administration, MPA. GDIP](#)
- V. [Sociology, MA, PhD](#)

Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry

- I. [Neuroscience, MSc, PhD](#) (Approved in fall 2022)
- II. [Orthodontics, MCID](#) (Approved in fall 2022)

Richard Ivey Business School

- I. [Business, MBA, PhD](#) (Approved in fall 2022)
- II. [Management MSc](#)

Brescia University College

- I. [Foods and Nutrition, MScFN](#)

Huron University College

- I. [French, BA](#) (Approved in Fall 2022)
- II. [Philosophy, BA](#)

King's University College

- I. [Childhood & Youth Studies, BA](#)
- II. [Psychology, BA](#)

Newly Approved Programs (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance, MSc

Global Health Systems, MHSc

Business and Sustainability, G.Dip

Climate Risk Assessment and Opportunity, G.Dip

New Undergraduate Program Combinations and Modules:

- Combined Degree Program in Arts and Humanities and Business Administration
- Combined Degree Program in Chemical Engineering and Foods and Nutrition
- Honours Specialization in Applied Psychology (King's)
- Major in Nutrition Management (Brescia)