

Final Assessment Report
Submitted by SUPR-G to SCAPA

Program:	Master of Science in Foods and Nutrition Brescia University College	
Degrees Offered:	MScFN	
Approved Fields:		
External Consultants:	Paula Brauer, Professor University of Guelph	Susan Whiting, Professor University of Saskatchewan
Internal Reviewers:	Ruth Martin, Associate Dean Faculty of Health Sciences	Elizabeth Mitchell, PhD Candidate Faculty of Music
Date of Site Visit:	May 27-28, 2015	
Evaluation:	<i>Good Quality</i>	
Approved by:	<i>SUPR-G on October 19, 2015 SCAPA on November 4, 2015</i>	

Executive Summary

The reviewers met with a wide variety of faculty, staff, preceptors, current students and graduates of the program. We were comfortable with the depth and breadth of opinion offered.

The External Consultants regarded the program positively, noting that it addresses a strong societal need for professionals to ensure the nutrition of Canadians. They felt that the learning outcomes are (i) fulfilling the requirements of high quality graduate degrees in Foods and Nutrition, and (ii) being achieved through a variety of appropriate theoretical and applied learning activities. The Consultants noted an innovative applied learning component involving a program assessment and business case proposal for a healthy eating program (FRESH) operated at Brescia. The External Consultants felt that the learning outcomes for the Internship Stream and Thesis Stream, while generally clear, could be differentiated more explicitly.

The External Consultants were very impressed with the levels of achievement by faculty members in research, external funding, dissemination, and graduate supervision and instruction, particularly in light of their heavy teaching loads (i.e., up to 3 full courses annually). They felt that the faculty complement should be expanded to ensure sustainability and enhancement of the program, particularly given that the program recently received approval from Western to increase its enrolment by 3 students annually.

The quality of incoming students was viewed as high, particularly within the highly competitive Internship Stream. The External Consultants found that enrolment in the Internship Stream well exceeds that of the Thesis Stream. They felt that the Thesis Stream enrolment should be increased over time, and the Internship Stream enrolment reduced. They supported the proposal by the program and faculty members that the Thesis Stream enrolment be increased by (i) removing the Registered Dietitian admission requirement for the Thesis Stream, and (ii) providing a part-time Thesis Stream degree option for practicing Registered Dietitians. The External Consultants noted that the program has been innovative in encouraging international students by creating an undergraduate diploma to prepare students for the MScFN Thesis Stream.

The External Consultants found that the Thesis Stream should be expanded from 5 to 6 terms to accommodate the level of research mentorship and quality and scale of the students' research projects. They felt that the course requirements for the Thesis Stream could be decreased, particularly given that current students are Registered Dietitians.

The External Consultants found that the funding available to students in the Thesis Stream is inadequate and a potential challenge to recruitment. They recommended that funding, both direct and indirect (scholarship), for Thesis Stream students be immediately reviewed.

Overall, the program is viewed as being of high quality. The Thesis Stream should be re-visited to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Significant Strengths of Program:

- The program addresses an important health, and health-care, need in Canada.
- The curriculum is varied and innovative, blending theoretical and applied components.
- The students are of high quality.
- The faculty members are high achieving and fully committed to the program.

Suggestions for improvement & Enhancement:

- The learning outcomes for the Internship Stream and Thesis Stream should be more clearly differentiated.
- The faculty complement in Foods and Nutrition should be increased.
- The Thesis Stream should be strengthened, with an increase in Thesis Stream enrolment and a decrease in Internship Stream enrolment
- The Registered Dietitian admission requirement for Thesis Stream students should be removed.
- A part-time Thesis Stream degree option should be developed for practicing Registered Dietitians.
- The time-in-program should be increased from 5 to 6 terms for the Thesis Stream.
- Funding for Thesis Stream students should be immediately reviewed.
- Course requirements for Thesis Stream students should be reviewed for prior learning.

Recommendations required for Program sustainability:	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline
Increase faculty complement in Foods and Nutrition program	Director, Dean	budgetary	as feasible based on budget availability
Increase enrolment in Thesis Stream, decrease enrolment in Internship Stream	Director		In progress
Remove the Registered Dietitian admission requirement for Thesis Stream students	Director	SGPS support	Fall 2016
Develop a part-time Thesis Stream degree option for practicing Registered Dietitians	Director	SGPS support	Fall 2016
Increase time-in-program from 5 to 6 terms for Thesis Stream	Director	SGPS support	Fall 2016
Enhance financial support for Thesis Stream students	Director, Dean, Principal	budgetary	Fall 2017
Allow flexibility in course requirements for Thesis Stream to reflect admission credentials	Director, faculty		In progress