

Final Assessment Report

Name of Program

Undergraduate Sociology Program at Brescia University College

Degrees Offered

Bachelor of Arts

External Consultants

Dr. Glenda Wall, Associate Professor - Wilfrid Laurier University
Dr. Danielle Soulliere, Associate Professor - University of Windsor

Internal Reviewers

Dr. Sauro Camiletti, Vice Principal and Academic Dean - King's University College at Western University

Date of Site Visit

March 15, 2016

Evaluation

Good Quality

Approved by SUPR-U

May 18, 2016

Approved by SCAPA

May 25, 2016

Executive Summary

Drs. Glenda Wall and Danielle Soulliere conducted a comprehensive and thorough review of the Sociology programs at Brescia University College. Over their two day visit the reviewers met with the Vice Provost, Academic Dean, Department Chair, Internal Reviewer, program faculty and students, librarian and program support staff. It was their view that the programs aligned with Brescia's stated mission and values, the program requirements were "reasonable", the curricula "consistent and comparable with Sociology programs across Ontario", the learning outcomes "effectively met" and faculty commitment to student learning "is impressive". In short, the reviewers were satisfied with the program's design, content and delivery. They thoughtfully identified strengths and areas for improvement. These are summarized below.

Significant Strengths of Program

The curricula effectively prepare students for graduate studies as well as the world of work.

Courses contribute to a culture of research among undergraduate students and more broadly to the goals of leadership, engagement and experiential learning.

Programs have unique features evidenced by keeping classes small, a focus on experiential learning, a 4000-level capstone course, fostering leadership and cultivating engaged citizenship.

Evaluations speak to a high quality of teaching among both full time and contract faculty.

The overall level of research activity is suitable for a department of this size.

Students are well served by library and advising services.

Faculty engagement is "impressive" and the commitment to student mentoring "exceptional".

Suggestions for improvement & Enhancement

All parties agree that an additional faculty hire is needed to support the Community Development and Criminal Justice modules.

Given the College's focus on experiential learning, the reviewers encourage the hire of an Experiential Learning Support Person.

The reviewers suggest the development of an Honors Specialization in Criminal Justice to meet student demand.

The reviewers encourage the Department to continue the incremental development of courses at the 3000-4000 level to allow more varied assessments and the achievement of more complex learning outcomes.

Finally, the reviewers suggest increasing Brescia student access to senior courses.

The Department and Academic Dean have acknowledged these suggestions and are factoring them into their planning process.

Recommendations required for Program sustainability:

Recommendation	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline
That Brescia consider hiring an additional faculty member to support the Community Development and Criminal Justice modules.	EPC and Faculty Council	Budgetary	Brescia is factoring this into their hiring prioritization process.
That Brescia provide students with access to more senior courses	EPC and Faculty Council		Ongoing