

**Final Assessment Report**  
Submitted by SUPR-G to SCAPA

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| <b>Program:</b>     | <b>Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (HRS)</b>   |
| Degrees Offered:    | MSc and PhD   |
| Approved Fields:    | Health and Aging; Health Professional Education; Health Promotion; Hearing Science; Measurement and Methods; Occupational Science; Physical Therapy; Rehabilitation Science; Speech and Language Science. |
| Date of Site Visit: | January 14 and 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2013.   |
| Evaluation:         | <i>Good Quality</i>   |

**Summary:**

The Graduate Program in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (HRS), within the Faculty of Health Sciences, is a relatively new program that offers an MSc (since 2006) and a PhD (since 2001) - degree. Nine fields are available for students to specialize in: Health and Aging; Health Professional Education; Health Promotion; Hearing Science; Measurement and Methods; Occupational Science; Physical Therapy; Rehabilitation Science; and Speech and Language Science. In addition, combined graduate programs with the Rehabilitation Schools allow graduate students to concurrently enroll in the PhD program and either the MSC (OT), MCISc (SLP), and the MCISc (AUD) program. Approximately 180 students are currently enrolled in the HRS program.

The External Consultants describe the program as “successful...with tremendous student demand”. Strengths and innovative aspects of this program identified by the External Consultants include its impressive support staff; competent and productive faculty members; successful provision of interdisciplinary education; existence of fields that focus on identified research areas; adequate financial student support; and satisfactory completion rates.

Areas for improvement and opportunities for enhancement include standardization, clarification and revision of the fields, better tracking of students (where they are from – inside/outside Western; disciplinary background, international versus domestic, and what careers they end up in), “review of the communications mechanism between supervisors, students, and administrative staff and academic leaders”, and attention to perceived inequities in requirements across areas.

| <b>Recommendation:</b>   | <b>Responsibility</b>   |
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| Better tracking of student outcomes  | Supervisors and Chair, HRS                                      |
| Better tracking of student sources   | Chair, HRS  |
| Continue program standardization efforts, including a review of the fields and greater consistency in requirements across fields | Graduate committee, Chair, HRS, Associate Dean                  |
| Improving access to students via part-time enrolment and online delivery   | Graduate Committee, Alternative delivery specialist, Chair, HRS |
| Review of communication mechanisms among all program members   | Chair, HRS, Faculty members, Graduate Committee                 |
| Expand recruitment strategies  | Graduate Chair, Admissions and Recruitment committee            |