

Final Assessment Report
Submitted by SUPR-G to SCAPA

Program:	Nursing	
Degrees Offered:	MScN, PhD, MN	
Approved Fields:	<p>Phd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership in Nursing Education • Nursing Leadership in Health Promotion and Advanced Nursing Practice • Nursing Leadership in Health Services Delivery <p>MScN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership in Nursing Education • Nursing Leadership in Health Promotion and Advanced Nursing Practice • Nursing Leadership in Health Services Delivery <p>MN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner • Advanced Nursing Practice 	
External Consultants:	Dr. Diana Clarke University of Manitoba	Dr. Jennifer Medves Queen's University
Internal Reviewers:	Dr. Catherine Nolan (Associate Dean, Graduate Studies) Don Wright Faculty of Music	Ms. Alisha Albert-Green PhD student, Statistics
Date of Site Visit:	June 25-26, 2015	
Evaluation:	<i>Good Quality</i>	
Approved by:	<i>SUPR-G on September 14, 2015</i> <i>SCAPA on September 30, 2015</i>	

Executive Summary

The review of the Nursing graduate program was well coordinated, and additional information requested by the consultants was provided quickly and efficiently. The reviewers noted that the learning outcomes for each program are clearly mapped out, and aligned with the Graduate Degree Level Expectations and with Western's institutional mission. Overall, the report is very positive.

The structure of the Master's programs allows most students to finish on time and, when desired, to switch seamlessly among the MScN and MN programs. At the PhD level, Nursing has the longest time to completion rate at Western, which is due in large part to the demographic of the students (often working full-time). The program has taken steps such as eliminating comprehensive examinations and alternative modes of delivery (e.g., evening, weekend, compressed, multimodal, and blended course delivery) to deal with this issue.

The consultants' report affirms the vibrancy and sustainability of the program.

Significant Strengths of Program:

- Strength of the faculty
- Strong culture of research in the SON and FHS, including the Nursing Research Unit and the Centre for Health Equity and Social Inclusion, which welcomes Nursing research initiatives
- Impressive plans for new FHS building
- Strength of library resources and services

- High level of student satisfaction

Suggestions for improvement & Enhancement:

- The issue of clearer articulation of the number and nature of the fields of study in the program came up in the review and the program and Dean’s responses. The program and current Dean recognize this as a larger issue in strategic planning, and both intend to hold a retreat for strategic planning once the new Director and the move to the new building and the new FHS Dean are all in place. Fewer fields of study will allow more elective courses to be available at one time.
- Greater staff support is needed to enable the Graduate Program Assistant to concentrate exclusively to graduate program matters.
- The reviewers also note that the opportunity to meet with employers would have been welcome as well as a separate meeting with the Director of the Nursing Program. These points should be considered for future reviews.
- Continue to develop an alternate delivery model for the PhD program, and address the technological and other challenges that have surfaced to date.
- Increase faculty complement. The present faculty complement is insufficient to supervise the current projected enrolment of 73 Master’s and 42 PhD students, even if half of the Master’s students are in course-based programs.
- Articulate a clearer vision for the program.

Recommendations required for Program sustainability:	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline
Revisit the number and nature of fields of study	Associate Dean Director	Time	September 2017
Continue exploration of alternate delivery for the PhD program	Director Associate Director	Time	September 2017
Offer research courses specific to Nursing each year	Director Associate Director	Budget	Ongoing
Continue exploration of ways to shorten PhD time to completion	Director Associate Director	Time	September 2017
Increase faculty resources	Dean Director	Budget	as financially feasible
Increase staff resources	Dean Director	Budget	as financially feasible