

Final Assessment Report

Undergraduate Program:	Sociology at King's University College
New or Cyclical Program Review (please indicate)	Cyclical Program Review
Degree(s) Offered:	BA
Date of Site Visit:	March 8, 2013
Evaluation	Good quality

Summary:

Institutional Synthesis

The External Consultants (Dr. Roberta Hamilton – Queen's University and Dr. Ronald Hinch – University of Ontario Institute of Technology) reported that the Sociology program at King's University College is delivered in compliance with the mission, values, strategic priorities and academic plans of King's University College; that "the modules in both sociology and criminology provide ample opportunities in each year for discussion of theoretical, methodological and substantive perspectives on social life, including social policy and their consequences". Students enjoy their academic experience in the various Sociology and Criminology programs and the faculty have a record of impressive teaching and strong publication. However, the modular offerings and combinations need to be rationalized, the faculty student ratio in the Department needs to be reduced and more resources need to be allocated to support the administrative needs of the Department and reduce the reliance on part time faculty. The Department concurs with most of the recommendations and the College is pleased with the review.

Strengths of the Program

- The programs in both Sociology and Criminology are clearly articulated and comprehensive in their design and content.
- The curriculum provides students with core courses in theory, methodology including statistics, and substantive courses which reflect well the current state of the discipline in Canada as well as the particular interests of some of the King's faculty.
- The faculty have a strong teaching and research record.
- Library resources more than meet the requirements of the programs.
- Students, faculty and administrators value the small classes and collegial relations that contribute to an atmosphere of mutual trust and love of learning.

Weaknesses of the Program

- The student faculty ratio is the highest at the College.
- More experiential learning opportunities need to be created. The programs require designated laboratory facilities.
- Modular offerings and combinations need to be reviewed and rationalized to increase the breadth of the educational experience.
- Department programs should allow senior courses outside the Department.
- Too much reliance on part time instruction. The next full time hire should be in Criminology. More administrative assistance required to assist the Chair.

Executive Summary

The Sociology and Criminology programs at King's University College are delivered in accordance with the College's mission, values, strategic priorities and academic plans. The curriculum is comprehensive in its academic content with "substantive courses that reflect well the current state of

the discipline". The students enjoy their educational experience and the faculty have strong teaching and research records. However, modular offerings, combinations and structure need to be rationalized to increase the breadth of the student educational experience; reliance on part time faculty needs to be reduced; and more resources need to flow to the Department to support its administration and student development.

Recommendation	Responsibility
Rationalize modular offerings and combinations	Department and EPC
Add more senior breadth options outside the Department to module requirements	Department and EPC
Add an optional honors thesis course to the HSP programs	Department and EPC
Add two faculty positions with the first in Criminology	EPC and College Council
Provide more assistance for the administration of the Department	Academic Dean
Review the governance structure of Department	Department