

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

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Geology and Geophysics Programs in Department of Earth Sciences</b>
Degrees Offered:	MSc (Thesis bases), MSc (course based) and PhD in Geophysics; MSc (Thesis bases), MSc (course based) and PhD in Geology;
Approved Fields:	Earth and Planetary Systems Resource Geosciences Tectonic Processes and Natural Hazards Earth Evolution: Surface, Life and Climate.
Date of Site Visit:	April 17, 18, 2012. External Appraisal and final responses received July 20, 2012.
Evaluation:	<i>Good Quality</i>

**Summary:**

The Geology and Geophysics programs are very strong and have strong leadership. They have experienced significant growth in graduate student enrolment since the last review, making these programs now a destination of choice for quality B.Sc. graduates in earth sciences from across Ontario and beyond. Completion times for the MSc and the PhD programs are good.

The faculty complement provides the necessary expertise to cover a number of sub-disciplines in the areas of Geology and Geophysics that are the basis for a request to re-align/change the names of Approved Fields to those noted above. These new fields better reflect the areas of concentration of the current faculty members.

The model for the “accelerated M.Sc.” programs, (course and project based) is appropriate, but the reviewers recommend that these “accelerated M.Sc.” degrees have a different name to better differentiate them from the traditional thesis based M.Sc. degree programs. Different names would also highlight the differences in training the students in these two streams receive.

In summary, the programs are strong and produce high-quality graduates.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Develop an alternative nomenclature for the accelerated M.Sc. programs to differentiate them from thesis-based M.Sc. programs	Grad Chair and Chair
Continue to monitor admission standards, especially for those entering the accelerated MSc	Grad Chair
Work to concentrate faculty, research labs and student space to encourage communication and discussion across the areas and programs	Chair and Dean
Improve program communication (especially on the web)	Grad Chair, Chair
Clarify the grad student funding model & improve communication regarding funding	Grad Chair, Chair