

**QUALITY ASSURANCE: CYCLICAL UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE  
PROGRAM REVIEW – School of Kinesiology  
June 2013**

**Executive Summary**

In accordance with the Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) the School of Kinesiology submitted a Self-Study (February 2012) to initiate the cyclical program review of their undergraduate and graduate programs. Volume 1 presented program descriptions, outcomes, and analyses, institutional information and statistical data. Volume 2 and 3 provided a collection of the program course outlines and the CVs for each full-time member in the School.

Two external reviewers and one internal reviewer, selected by the Senate Academic Committee Quality Assurance (SAC-QA) from a set of proposed reviewers, examined the materials and completed a two-day visit (April 2012). The visit included interviews with the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Deputy Provost, Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Manager of Graduate Studies, School of Kinesiology Director and Graduate Coordinator, University Librarian, and meetings with full-time teaching faculty, contract lecturers, and support staff. The Review Team also had an opportunity to meet with groups of graduate and undergraduate students, and to visit the School's labs, lecture and seminar rooms, and the library commons.

In their report submitted July 2012, the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the Kinesiology programs meet the Quality Assurance Framework evaluation criteria and are consistent with the University's mission and academic priorities. They reported that the program requirements and learning outcomes set out in the self-study are clear, appropriate and in alignment with the institution's statement of undergraduate and graduate degree level expectations.

The Reviewers reported that the faculty as a whole are strongly committed to teaching undergraduate courses that are characterized by relevant, rigorous, and creative content that reflect areas of faculty expertise and core elements of an excellent program. The breadth and depth of course offerings are consistent with the degree requirements in other Kinesiology programs in Ontario. They highlighted the School's commitment to student-centred learning as demonstrated by the delivery of practical laboratory and community experiences as part of the Practice of Kinesiology stream. Positive conclusions based on the self-assessment data were supported by comments made by faculty and students.

The Reviewers stated that the admission standards, curriculum structure and delivery, and teaching and assessment methods associated with the graduate program are consistent with those of other Kinesiology graduate programs in Ontario. The data

provided evidence of high quality supervision resulting in peer-reviewed presentations and publications, as well as of the development of highly qualified personnel. In addition to having met academic standards for the Master's program, the requirement for students to secure a supervisor prior to admission was believed to enhance the success of the students; and therefore the opportunity for quality research experiences within the School. The Reviewers commented on the positive culture of support and rapport with students in the program.

The Review Team expressed some concerns related to the completion times for graduate students. They suggested that the course load may be too heavy and encouraged the School to undertake actions designed to shorten times to degree completion. They provided feedback related to faculty resources and noted that more full-time faculty will be needed in order to further develop the graduate program and allow faculty the opportunity to enhance their scholarly activity. A future need for additional laboratory equipment funding and technology support was identified. The Review Team provided a set of recommendations with supporting rationale for future consideration.

The Director of the School of Kinesiology, in consultation with the Dean of Health and Behavioral Sciences and the Dean of Graduate Studies, submitted a response to the Review Team's Report (December 2012). Several clarifications and corrections were noted and responses to each of the Reviewers' recommendations provided. Follow-up actions and timelines were included.

In accordance with the Lakehead University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan was prepared to provide a synthesis of the external evaluation and internal response and assessments of the undergraduate and graduate programs delivered by the School of Kinesiology. The report identifies the significant strengths of the program, the opportunities for program improvement and enhancement, and sets out and prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation.