



Quality Assurance Cyclical Undergraduate Program Review – Executive Summary and Implementation Plan

Gerontology Programs in the Department of Health Sciences

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Science

March 2025

Programs Reviewed

Gerontology BA

Double Major programs with Psychology and Women's Studies

Honours BA in Sociology with Major Concentration in Gerontology

Honours degree in Social Work with Major Concentration in Gerontology

Gerontology Minor

Graduate Specialization in Gerontology [available to: Master of Arts (Clinical Psychology, Sociology), Master of Education, Master of Health Sciences, Master of Public Health, Master of Science (Psychological Science, Kinesiology), and Master of Social Work]

Executive Summary

In accordance with the Lakehead University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Ontario Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), the Department of Health Sciences submitted a self-study (December 2018). Volume I presented the undergraduate program descriptions and outcomes, an analytical assessment of the programs, and program information along with institutional information and statistical data. Volume II provided course syllabi. Volume III provided the CVs for core and sessional faculty contributing to the delivery of the programs.

The Review Team for this cyclical program review included two external reviewers and one internal reviewer selected by the Senate Academic Quality Assurance Sub-Committee (SAC-QA) from a set of proposed reviewers. The reviewers examined materials and completed a two-day site visit on March 14-15, 2019. The site visit included meetings with the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Deputy Provost, Dean of Health and Behavioural Science, the Chair of the Department, full-time, tenure-track faculty members, a group of undergraduate and graduate students, the Associate Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, the University Librarian and Liaison Librarian, and a group of alumni and community

partners. The Review Team observed and/or toured the Chancellor Paterson Library including the Teaching Commons and Northern Studies Research Centre (fifth floor).

In their report (May 2019), the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the programs delivered by the Gerontology Programs in the Department of Health Sciences meet the Quality Assurance Framework evaluation criteria and align with the University mission, strategic plan and academic plan. The Review Team noted that the programs are of high quality and offer students a regionally connected and learner-centred experience supported by the full-time faculty members.

At both the undergraduate and graduate level, students must meet the standard University admission policies which are appropriate for the Program Learning Outcomes. Curriculum structure and delivery, and teaching and assessment methods are appropriate, are aligned with comparable programs across Canada at the undergraduate and graduate level, reflect the current state of the discipline, and are effective in preparing graduates to meet defined program outcomes and the University's Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Level Expectations.

The Review Team noted several strengths of the Gerontology programs and summarized them as follows:

- The research expertise of faculty and the extensive experiential knowledge of the contract lecturers;
- Community agency provision of practicum opportunities for students;
- Library resources including the Liaison Librarians with critical appraisal skills, support for researcher consultations and guidance on how to improve effectiveness of searches and access to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine library;
- The four research centres that provide unique opportunities for learners (Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research, Centre on Ethics, Centre on Education and Research on Aging & Health, and the Centre for Research on Safe Driving)

Responses to the Review Team were received from the Chair of the Department (July 2019), and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering (January 2020).

A Final Assessment Report (FAR) has been prepared to provide a synthesis of the external evaluation and internal response to the recommendations. This 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.

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan included below identifies the academic unit's plans to action the recommendations, those responsible for ensuring their implementation and the timelines.

Implementation Plan (Part A): Program Responsibilities

Implementation of the Recommendations	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
Consider options (e.g. an interdisciplinary minor) to the existing BA Gerontology	Consult with appropriate parties; if appropriate, complete required Senate processes to effect changes	Chair, Faculty, Dean HBS	Sept 2020
Consider revisions to Graduate Specialization (Recommendations 1, 3 and 4)	Consult with appropriate parties; if appropriate, complete required Senate processes to effect changes	Chair, Faculty, Dean FHBS, Dean FGS	Sept 2021
Develop mechanism to ensure greater oversight of Gerontological elements in Graduate Specialization program requirements	Consult with appropriate parties; if appropriate, complete required Senate processes to effect changes	Chair, Faculty, Dean FHBS, representative of Department of Women's Studies	Sept 2021
Consider opportunities for tenured faculty to teach consistently in core courses (esp. first year)	Within terms of Faculty Association Agreement and other existing administrative arrangements, develop a plan to assign teaching loads to address Gerontology courses where appropriate.	Chair, Dean FHBS	Sept 2021

Implementation Plan (Part B): Decanal & Administration Responsibilities

Implementation of the Recommendations	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
Meet regularly with School to monitor progress on the Implementation Plan**.	Report to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) as part of the Annual Review process.	Dean FHBS*	Annually

* Indicates individual or office with direct responsibility

**The Dean of the Faculty, in consultation with the Department Chair shall be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan. The details of progress made will be presented in the Deans' Annual Reports and filed in the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic). Monitoring reports will be posted on the university's web site.