

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR
UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW (UPR)
REPORT ON: BACHELOR OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS
 June 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Review Preparation

In preparing this document, the Program Development Committee reviewed the following: Bachelor of Arts and Science (BAS) Self-Study (SS) (September 2013), the report of the external reviewers (ER) (December 2013), and the response from the BAS Program Chair, and the response from the Assistant Provost, Inter-Faculty Programs to the above material. The external reviewers were: Dr. Suzanne Bailey, Director, Bachelor of Arts and Science Program, Trent University, Dr. Jean Wilson, Director, Arts and Science Program, McMaster University, Dr. Michael Crawford, Professor, Biological Sciences, University of Windsor.

Program Overview

The Bachelor of Arts and Science Honours program is housed in the Centre for Inter-Faculty Programs. The BAS is a challenging inter-disciplinary program geared to high-achieving students. The program provides students with the critical thinking and research skills to approach and resolve problems from the lens of an artist/humanist *and* a scientist. The intent of the program is to challenge students to look beyond discipline-specific expertise and modes of inquiry by blending seemingly disparate areas of knowledge and research within the framework of a set of core inter-disciplinary courses that “foster the integration of knowledge, methodologies, theory and practice not usually available in discipline-centered programs.” (SS, p.4, p.5)

Enrolments

	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014
Undergraduate Full-Time	53	73	81.5	47	67
Undergraduate Part-Time	5	5	2	3.5	3

Human Resources

Faculty/Instructors

Program Chair	1
Sessional Lecturer – continuous 8 month positions	1/3 (joint appointment with 2 other areas)

Full/Part-time Staff

Academic Coordinator	1 full-time
Receptionist	1 full-time
Receptionist	0.5 part-time

FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT (with Implementation Plan)

Significant Strengths of the Programs

The BAS program attracts academically strong students dedicated to making the most of their university education and experience. As noted by the reviewers, “[s]tudents in this program enjoy an unusually developed feeling of cohort. They are self-organizing, proactive, and keep in touch long after graduation. They are also, many of them, quite successful”. (ER, p.11) Students are given individualized advising and support on a continual basis and their progress closely monitored by the Program Chair and the Academic Coordinator. (ER, p.7)

Opportunities for Program Improvement/Enhancements

More regular and consistent review of the BAS curriculum by a committee of those involved in teaching for the program would ensure relevant program renewal and address the reviewers concern with the overuse of DARs exemptions and the need “to ensure that faculty are contributing to program renewal and growth, not merely to isolationist pedagogy.” (ER, p. 9, p.11)

In addition, the structure of Inter-Faculty Programs needs to be addressed. The way in which the BAS program was established and the administrative structure put in place to run the program have been its greatest impediment. “[T]he single most challenging and problematic feature of the program [is that] it was born an orphan and, a decade later, in effect it has yet to be adopted. In terms of administrative structures, ongoing governance, and clear lines of reporting, authority, and participation, there are ambiguities and uncertainties sufficient to impede effective maintenance, renovation, and marketing of the program.” (ER, p. 3) Thus, the greatest opportunity for improvement for the BAS program is to address the issue and status of IFP. However, this University Program Review (UPR) is about a single program administered by the Centre for Inter-Faculty Programs and not about a review of IFP itself. The issue of the status of IFP does not fall under the purview of the BAS program and is more appropriately addressed elsewhere, outside of this UPR. The issue of the structure and status of IFP, including the question of incorporating it in the bylaws, must be dealt with by the University and has been forwarded to the Provost and Deans Council.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Recommendations (in priority order)

(Final recommendations arrived at by the Program Development Committee, following a review and assessment of the External Reviewers report, the Program Chair’s response and the Assistant Provost’s response.)

Curriculum and Degree Requirements:

Recommendation 1: Review and re-articulate the rationale and sequencing for core BAS courses, as well as the rationale for required courses (major and minor concentrations) in the degree program. Review calendar copy at the end of this process.

Agents: BAS Program Committee, IFP Council, Relevant Departments, Deans of FAHSS and Science

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 2: Review the DARs exemption process and examine other ways to assist students in meeting Honours requirements.

Agents: BAS Program Chair, Assistant Provost

Completion by: Fall 2016

Recommendation 3: Work to meet with the Deans of Science and Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences to coordinate curricular plans and teaching resources for the BAS.

Agents: Assistant Provost, Program Chair, Deans of FAHSS and Science

Completion by: Ongoing

Program Growth:

Recommendation 4: That there be no further expansion of the BAS program until recommendations 1-3 are completed.

Agents: Provost, Assistant Provost

Completion by: Annual Report

Student and Alumni Engagement:

Recommendation 5: Enhance the visibility of the BAS program and strengthen student and alumni engagement by, among others:

- Developing and maintaining a greater web presence
- Continually conveying student and alumni success stories on the IFP website and in collaboration with Public Affairs and Communication
- Circulating a newsletter to current students, alumni and others
- Continuing to utilize BAS students in promotional materials and recruitment activities

Agents: Program Chair, Assistant Provost, Public Affairs and Communication, Student Recruitment Office

Completion by: Fall 2018

Learning Outcomes:

Recommendation 6: That the Department submit learning outcomes and assessment methods for the program and each of its courses that clearly correspond to the University's stated "Characteristics of a University of Windsor Graduate".

Agents: Program Chair, Assistant Provost, CTL, Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning

Completion by: Fall 2016