

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR
UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW (UPR)
REPORT ON: ENGLISH
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS
 April 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This review covers the undergraduate programming offered by the Department of English Language, Literature, and Creative Writing. However, to provide context, some information and recommendations on the area's graduate programs have also been included.

Review Preparation

In preparing this document, the Program Development Committee reviewed the following: English's Self-Study (SS) (2012/13), the report of the external reviewers (ER), and the response from the Department Head, and the response from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences to the above material. The external reviewers were: Dr. Dennis Denisoff, Professor, English Department, Ryerson University, Dr. Christina Simmons, Associate Professor, History Department, University of Windsor, Dr. Marjorie Stone, McCulloch Chair in English, English Department, Dalhousie University.

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

At the undergraduate level, the Department offers a General BA in English Language and Literature, an Honours BA in English Language and Literature, and an Honours BA in English Literature and Creative Writing. Students also have the option of combining their Honours English Language and Literature or their Honours English Literature and Creative Writing major with a major from another discipline.

The English Department is also a partner in the delivery of the new Digital Journalism programs. Among other combinations offered by other departments, students may complete a Combined Honours BA in Digital Journalism and English Language and Literature or a Combined Honours BA in Digital Journalism and English Literature and Creative Writing.

The Department offers a Minor in English Language and Literature, as well as Major and Minor Concentrations for the Bachelor of Arts and Science.

At the graduate level, the Department offers a Master of Arts in English with two fields: Language and Literature and, Creative Writing and Language and Literature. For the latter, students focus on an independent creative writing project. For the Language and Literature field, students elect to pursue the thesis option or the course work option.

Enrolments

Undergraduate

	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013
Undergraduate Full-Time	331.35	375.50	359.20	368.88	327.91
Undergraduate Part-Time	52.75	46.20	53	37.74	49.19

Graduate

	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013
MA Full-time	24	24	15	21	28
MA Part-Time	0	0	0	1	0

Human Resources

Faculty/Instructors- English has 14 Faculty Members in Total

Tenure/tenure-track faculty	14 (1 is currently acting as Assistant Provost, Centre for Inter-Faculty Programs; 1 is a bridged position)
Limited Term Appointments	1
Faculty members involved in graduate program delivery	14

Full/Part-time Staff

Secretary to the Head	1
Secretary	1

FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT (with Implementation Plan)

Significant Strengths of the Programs

The Department has highly committed instructors, dedicated to providing a top-notch undergraduate education and bringing literature and creative writing to life for students inside and outside of the classroom, and to the broader Windsor-Essex community through events such as Bookfest. Its flagship program in Creative Writing, its successful Writer-in-Residence program, and its innovative practicum courses in editing, publishing and hypertext are among several initiatives that distinguish the Department from similar programs at sister institutions.

Opportunities for Program Improvement/Enhancements

The External Reviewers noted that the Department should reconsider programming focussed on historically organized literary survey courses, particularly in the first year. Although this is how English programs have traditionally been organized, the external reviewers note that an increasing number of English programs in Canada are moving away from this program model/structure and encourage the Department to consider shifting requiring first-year courses in contemporary or modern literature at the first year level, which would speak more to the department's diverse student population, rather than focussing on introductory historical literary survey courses. Other areas for improvement or enhancement are identified in the recommendations.

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 Head's response and the Dean's response.)

1. That the Department review its undergraduate program requirements with a view to incorporating first year course requirements focussing on literature from diverse countries/groups, in light of current practices at other Canadian universities and the fact that, as the Self-Study Brief emphasizes, Windsor is Canada's 4th most multicultural city; and ensure program requirements are streamlined and course offerings rotated on a consistent basis to ensure diversity of choice and timely completion for students.

Agents: Head, Department Council

Completion by: Fall 2017

2. That the Department consider growing graduate programming, perhaps through the creation of a course-based MA and/or by expanding in new areas. *[Growth of the graduate program could benefit the undergraduate program.]*

Agents: Head, Department Council

Completion by: Fall 2017

3. That the Department work with the Dean to review its role in providing general instruction in English writing and composition (26-100), perhaps restricting enrolment to non-FAHSS students and thereby reducing the number of sections required, particularly in light of the requirement that all students enrolled in programs in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences must complete Foundations of Academic Writing I and II.

Agents: Head, Department Council

Completion by: Fall 2015

4. That the Department continue its efforts to reduce the number of committees, consolidate administrative responsibilities, and update its dynamic, re-designed website which serves as an effective recruitment tool.

Agents: Head, Department Council

Completion by: Fall 2015

5. That the Department continue its efforts to refurbish event space and enhance computer lab facilities for students and faculty.

Agents: Head, Department Council

Completion by: Fall 2016

6. That the Department review, in consultation with the Centre for Teaching and Learning, its program and course learning outcomes and their application to:

- 1) verify the presence of a comprehensive approach in their development, *i.e.*, one that demonstrates with a degree of transparency the development of the various learning outcomes, from introduction to mastery, in similar courses from first year to fourth year; and
- 2) ensure learning outcomes are consistently applied in multi-section courses.

Agents: Head, Department Council, Centre for Teaching and Learning

Completion by: Fall 2018

[PDC looks at recommendation 6 from the external reviewers as taking current learning outcomes to another level. PDC notes that the Department has established program and course learning outcomes and notes that this next level review could serve as a model for other Departments that will soon undertake this exercise, with the assistance of workshops coordinated by CTL.]