

**UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR**  
**UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW (UPR)**  
**REPORT ON: Liberal Arts and Professional Studies**  
**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM**  
January 2019

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Review Preparation**

In preparing this document, the Program Development Committee reviewed the following: Liberal Arts and Professional Studies' Self-Study (SS) (2014/2015), the report of the external reviewers (ER) (May 2018), the response from the Assistant Dean of FAHSS & Coordinator of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (AD) (June 2018), and the response from the Dean (DR) (July 2018) to the above material. The external reviewers were: Dr. Katherine Acheson, Associate Dean of Arts, University of Waterloo, Dr. Neil Querengesser, Dean of Arts, Concordia University of Edmonton, and Dr. Gerry Kerr, Odette School of Business, University of Windsor.

**Undergraduate and Graduate Programs**

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences offers a General Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (LAPS), an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, and an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Professional Studies: Aeronautics Leadership (Flight Option)\*. The following degree completion pathways are also offered:

- General Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (for Lambton College Liberal Studies Transfer Students (formerly General Arts and Science University (GASU) transfer students)
- Honours Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (for Lambton College Liberal Studies Transfer Students (formerly General Arts and Science University (GASU) transfer students)
- General Liberal Arts and Professional Studies for Career Professionals (for Graduates of Qualifying CAAT (or equivalent) Diploma Programs)
- General Liberal Arts and Professional Studies for Career Professionals (for Graduates of Qualifying CAAT (or equivalent) Advanced Diploma Programs)

*\*The LAPS Aeronautics Leadership program did not form part of this review. It will be reviewed at a later date.*

**Enrolments**

**Undergraduate**

	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018
<b>Full-Time</b>	319	300	290	258	246
<b>Part-Time</b>	146	156	112	79	80

**Human Resources**

Housed in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, student advising and administration of the Liberal Arts and Professional Studies program rests with the Assistant Dean of FAHSS & Coordinator of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies and the Academic and Student Affairs Secretary. The Associate Dean's secretary also provides support for the Liberal Arts and Professional Studies programs.

The degree requirements for the Liberal Arts and Professional Studies program consist of existing courses offered by departments across the University for their programs.

**FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT (with Implementation Plan)**

**Significant Strengths of the Programs**

The Liberal Arts and Professional Studies programs have wide-ranging appeal in that: they provide a broad liberal arts education and promise a professional education by providing additional credentialing through the new requirement

to complete at least one certificate program and the new aeronautics option; they provide flexibility in terms of course selection; they provide an avenue for degree completion for students who are struggling or required to withdraw from their chosen major. (SS, p. 47; ER, pp.3, 6)

As noted by the external reviewers, "LAPS is essential to the mission of the University of Windsor. It is a well-conceived and appropriately managed program, and it appears poised to serve the university's students even better through its recently implemented innovations." (ER, p.8) The recent change requiring students to complete a certificate and 2-3 minors "is a significant and well-considered innovation". (ER, p.3) The combination of the certificate plus minors gives the program greater coherence and "offers students choice, focus, and potentially greater employment opportunities upon graduation." (ER, p.3)

### **Opportunities for Program Improvement/Enhancements**

The flexibility of the LAPS program and its use as a fallback degree, or as a temporary landing place for students required to withdraw from their program of choice, make it challenging to manage and results in significant retention issues. "It is not known how much of the loss of enrolment in LAPS over time is due to positive outcomes (return to program of origin or to another major) and how much is due to students being unable to succeed and leaving the university." (ER, p.5) Constant student movement in and out of the program (whatever the reason), results in an inability to create a sense of cohort and identity. The recent revisions to LAPS "are expected to improve the identity and reputation of the program, retention rates, and completion rates." (ER, p.7) Adopting fallback degrees in other Faculties would also lessen the reliance on LAPS as the default option for all students. (ER, pp.7,8)

These and other opportunities for program improvements are captured in the recommendations listed below.

## **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 Assistant Dean and Coordinator of LAPS response, and the Dean's response.)*

**Recommendation 1:** That FAHSS monitor enrolment, retention and graduation data in the LAPS program, in light of Fall 2018 changes in admission and enrolment practices, with a view to increasing the success of LAPS and its students, and determining capacity, staffing, and other resource needs.

**Agents:** Assistant Dean, Dean of FAHSS

**Completion by:** Fall 2022

**Recommendation 2:** That FAHSS work with Faculties that are directing underperforming students in their programs to LAPS to assess the appropriateness of LAPS to those students.

**Agents:** Assistant Dean of FAHSS, Dean of FAHSS, Associate Deans (Undergraduate) of relevant Faculties

**Completion by:** Fall 2020

**Recommendation 3:** That FAHSS engage in curricular planning and mapping for its LAPS programs that clearly correspond to the program-level learning outcomes.

*[FAHSS has submitted learning outcomes to Senate for each of its LAPS programs.]*

**Agents:** Assistant Dean, CTL

**Completion by:** Fall 2020

**Recommendation 4:** That one room on campus be made permanently available to LAPS students for academic, social, and extra-curricular purposes, to assist them in establishing and maintaining an academic identity and purpose.

**Agents:** Dean

**Completion by:** Fall 2020