

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR
UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW (UPR)
FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: HUMAN KINETICS
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS
January 2022

Executive Summary of the Cyclical Program Review of the Faculty of Human Kinetics Programs

In accordance with the University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Department of Kinesiology's 2017-2018 Self-Study, submitted to the Office of Quality Assurance on October 8, 2020, included: 1) descriptions and an analysis of the programs, their learning outcomes, curriculum structure, and student experience; 2) information on enrolments as well as financial, physical and human resources; and 3) the program data including the standard data package provided by the Office of Quality Assurance. Appended to the Self-Study were faculty member CVs, the Leddy Library report, course descriptions and syllabi, student satisfaction survey data, sample student publications, AAU policies, and the prior cyclical program review report.

The Faculty of Human Kinetics programs were reviewed by Dr. Linda Rohr, School of Human Kinetics and Recreation, Memorial University; Dr. Harold Riemer, Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, University of Regina; and Dr. Jamie Crawley, Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor. In addition to assessing the Self-Study, the Review Team conducted a two-day virtual site visit on November 19-20, 2020, which included viewing a video of the laboratory facilities and meeting with faculty, students, administrative and technical staff, the Undergraduate and Graduate Committees, the Academic Advisor, the Experiential Learning Coordinator, the Acting Head of Kinesiology, the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Human Kinetics, and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Office of Quality Assurance.

In their report (February 2021), the Review Team noted that the programs meet the IQAP evaluation criteria and are consistent with the University's mission and strategic priorities. Specifically, the Review Team noted that the program-level learning outcomes were clear and appropriately mapped to undergraduate and graduate degree-level expectations, that program requirements were appropriate, and that the teaching and assessment methods ensure students' attainment of the program learning outcomes from introduction to mastery. The programs are delivered by exceptional faculty members with strong teaching and research profiles, who are committed to providing a strong student experience. This dedication is also evident in the support and technical staff.

While admission requirements were generally considered appropriate, the Review Team recommended reviewing the MHK minimum admission average, noting that most similar programs require a 75%. The team also questioned the requirement that MHK students coming from other disciplines complete qualifying Kinesiology courses, noting that this is uncommon and may discourage applications. In terms of the undergraduate programs, the Review Team generally supported distinct admission pathways for the two programs, but urged close monitoring, both to ensure balanced enrolment across both programs and to foresee any possible impact on resources and course offerings among and between the graduate and undergraduate programs. The Review Team also noted how successful the Faculty of Human Kinetics has been in its focus on providing an exceptional student experience (as demonstrated by student satisfaction surveys), this through graduate and undergraduate experiential learning opportunities, opportunities for undergraduate student involvement in research projects, and consistent student advising and support throughout students' courses of study. Some concern was raised about the availability of upper-level undergraduate courses; this could be addressed, in part, by cross-listing graduate and undergraduate courses.

The Review Team concluded that the programs were current and relevant within the discipline, but that they lacked innovation in terms of areas of study or concentration. Such program initiatives could and should be pursued with other disciplines, through joint degrees or other partnerships, thus ensuring efficient and effective use of existing resources while delivering on innovative programming at both the undergraduate and graduate level, and encouraging future growth.

The Acting Head of Kinesiology and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Human Kinetics submitted their responses to the External Reviewers' Report (Spring 2021), addressing the recommendations, identifying follow-up actions, and providing clarification or corrections, as appropriate. The Senate Program Development Committee (PDC) Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan (January 2022) considered all the above documentation. The Executive Summary and Implementation Plan, along with any response from the area on the final recommendations, were submitted to Senate in February 2022.

Final Recommendations and Implementation Plan (in priority order)

Final recommendations were arrived at by the Program Development Committee, following a review and assessment of the External Reviewers report, the response from the Department of Kinesiology, and the Dean's response.

Recommendation 1: That the Department report on its plan to increase undergraduate and graduate student enrolment, including its plan to review, on an ongoing basis, entrance average requirements, the need for qualifying courses, and other undergraduate and graduate program elements, as well as pertinent data to ensure compliance and continued assurance that all programs produce graduates able to demonstrate each of the nine characteristics of a University of Windsor graduate.

Agents: Head, Dean of the Faculty, Kinesiology Council, Enrolment Management Office

Completion by: Fall 2023

Recommendation 2: That the Department rethink/utilize the resources that are available, including:

- a) using the resources on the main campus such as computer laboratory space and lecture theatres to enhance the delivery of HK programs.
- b) exploring the opportunity to share space and resources with other unit(s) under Faculty control (e.g., athletics).
- c) scheduling classes and labs on Fridays as well as late afternoon and evening timeslots throughout the week to decrease the perceived space limitations.

Agents: Head, Dean of the Faculty

Completion by: Fall 2023

Recommendation 3: That the Department pursue opportunities for curriculum revitalization, including:

- a) considering new streams, areas of concentration, or majors at the undergraduate level.
- b) broadening foci at the graduate level to include disciplines such as healthy aging, or parasport athlete development.
- c) mapping its programs to the University of Windsor graduate attributes. *[PDC notes that learning outcomes for all of its programs have been submitted.]*

Agents: Head, Dean of the Faculty, Kinesiology Council

Completion by: Fall 2025

Recommendation 4: That the Department report on initiatives to provide an optimal student experience, including exploring further increases in programming flexibility for students. (e.g., online course development and strategic summer course offerings), and that the Department report on whether projected course offerings can be/are being communicated to students at least 12-24 months in advance of their being offered.

Agents: Head, Dean of the Faculty

Completion by: Fall 2023

Recommendation 5: That Kinesiology report on its strategic plan, including information on how it will capitalize on its strengths (which include a strong focus on undergraduate research experiences, graduate internships, co-operative education and award-winning faculty), in order to find the niche that best matches its strengths.

Agents: Head, Dean of the Faculty, Kinesiology Council

Completion by: Fall 2025