

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR
UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW (UPR)
REPORT ON: SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS
 January 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Review Preparation

In preparing this document, the Program Development Committee reviewed the following: Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology's Self-Study (SS) (2014/15), the report of the external reviewers (ER) (April 2016), the response from the Head (HR) (May 2016), and the response from the Dean (DR) (June 2016) to the above material. The external reviewers were: Dr. Terry Wotherspoon, Department of Sociology, University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Victor Satzewich, Department of Sociology, McMaster University, Dr. Andrew Allen, Faculty of Education, University of Windsor.

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

At the undergraduate level, the Department offers programs in Anthropology, Criminology, Family and Social Relations, and Sociology. Specifically, the Department offers General Bachelor of Arts degrees in Family and Social Relations and in Sociology, and Honours Bachelor of Arts degrees in Criminology, Family and Social Relations, and Sociology. Students also have the option of combining their Honours Criminology, Honours Family and Social Relations, or Honours Sociology with a major from another discipline. Note that admissions have been suspended to the Honours Anthropology and Combined Honours Anthropology programs since Fall 2013.

The Department offers Minors in Anthropology, Family and Social Relations, Forensic and Cultural Anthropology, Studies in Sexuality, and Sociology, as well as Major and Minor Concentrations for the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Arts and Science in Anthropology, Criminology, and Sociology.

At the graduate level, the Department offers a Masters of Art in Criminology (thesis or course-based options), a Master of Arts in Sociology (thesis or course-based options), and a PhD in Sociology with Specialization in Social Justice. Admissions have been suspended to the Master of Arts in Social Data Analysis (MASDA) since Fall 2014.

Enrolments

Undergraduate

| | Fall 2012 | Fall 2013 | Fall 2014 | Fall 2015 | Fall 2016 |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Full-Time | 836.80 | 788.59 | 719.86 | 682.98 | 686.725 |
| Part-Time | 183 | 161.5 | 128.75 | 108 | 98 |

Graduate

| | Fall 2012 | Fall 2013 | Fall 2014 | Fall 2015 | Fall 2016 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| MA Criminology Full-Time | 11 | 13 | 13 | 20 | 26 |
| MA Criminology Part-Time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MA Sociology Full-Time | 15 | 20 | 17 | 9 | 12 |
| MA Sociology Part-Time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MASDA Full-Time | 11 | 16 | --- | --- | --- |
| MASDA Part-Time | 0 | 0 | --- | --- | --- |
| PhD Full-Time | 10 | 8 | 12 | 11 | 8 |
| PhD Part-Time | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |

Human Resources

Faculty/Instructors

| | |
|---|--|
| Tenure/tenure-track faculty | 21 (including Head, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, 1 vacant appointment) |
| Cross-appointment | 1 |
| Limited-term appointment | 1 |
| Sessional Lecturer | 1 |
| Faculty members involved in graduate program delivery | 23 (includes 1 cross-appointment + 1 limited-term appointment + 1 emeritus appointment + 3 adjunct appointments) |

Full/Part-time Staff

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Secretaries | 3 |
|-------------|---|

FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT (with Implementation Plan)

Significant Strengths of the Programs

The Department offers “good quality programs for both its undergraduate and graduate students” delivered by “a productive and dedicated faculty”. (ER, p. 2) These programs are reviewed regularly and a major curriculum review exercise was undertaken in 2013/14 to ensure students are provided with the best teaching and learning experience. In addition to providing a strong grounding in theory and methodology, the Department’s strong research culture and the provision of advanced seminar, capstone and practicum courses at the undergraduate-level enable students to pursue research and practical experiences. (DR, p. 1, SS pp. 2, 13)

Opportunities for Program Improvement/Enhancements

As the Department continues with the implementation and operationalization of its Task Force recommendations, it should continue to review its curricula to ensure that the revised programs are meeting the needs of students and, to monitor the effectiveness of its new/revised Departmental structures. (ER, p. 2)

The external reviewers noted that “[t]he Department has engaged in a thoughtful discussion about promising areas that could be built upon that are consistent with the university’s strategic plan. In particular, the department indicates that it would like to strengthen the areas of: international migration, border governance, and community diversity; and care, healthy communities and social policy. The reviewers believe that both of these areas hold considerable promise, and cut across many of the department’s existing areas of strength.” (ER, p.10) The Department is encouraged to initiate discussions on the development of such specializations, most of which are interdisciplinary in nature, to determine their viability.

Further 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 Head’s response and the Dean’s response.)

Recommendation 1: That the Department submit:

- (a) learning outcomes for each of its undergraduate and graduate programs that clearly correspond to the University's stated "Characteristics of a University of Windsor Graduate", and
- (b) learning outcomes and assessment methods for each of its courses that clearly correspond to the program-level learning outcomes.

Agents: Department Council, Head, CTL, Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 2: That the Department establish and report on its plan to monitor the progress of students in first year courses to ensure that they gain the skills needed to succeed in their university careers.

Agents: Department Council, Head

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 3: That the Department consider whether it is able to support the re-establishment of a major in Anthropology with its existing resources.

Agents: Department Head, Dean of FAHSS

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 4: In order to further enhance the competitiveness of its graduate students in the job market and for further graduate studies, that the Department:

- (a) consider offering a for-credit professional development seminar where students can be mentored about issues like scholarship applications, publishing, and grant writing.
- (b) report on whether and how it might provide training to MA and PhD students who do not necessarily pursue academic career trajectories. The area is encouraged to contact the Dean of Graduate Studies for information on MITACs and opportunities it provides for practical training.

Agents: Department Head, Departmental Council, FAHSS Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 5: That the Department investigate the unit reading requirements for its comprehensive examinations against those of other comparable PhD programs to ensure that its requirements are not inconsistent with those of other programs, and that it report on its findings.

Agents: Department Head, Departmental Council

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 6: That the Department find ways to increase the opportunities for faculty and students to interact intellectually beyond those that already exist in classroom settings and comprehensive exams. In particular, it should:

- a) consider developing a faculty-student seminar series, or perhaps organizing a yearly half or full-day mini-conference where faculty and students present the results of their research.
- b) find ways to bring in guest speakers to further enhance opportunities for collective intellectual exchanges.

Agents: Department Head, Departmental Council

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 7: That the Department develop a plan for how it proposes to rebalance intakes between Criminology, Sociology, Family and Social Relations, and Anthropology.

Agents: Department Head, Departmental Council

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 8: In order to develop a more systematic understanding of student perceptions and experiences of the various programs, that the Department, with the assistance of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the University's Quality Assurance office, develop ways to measure undergraduate student experiences, both for in course students and alumni. This need not necessarily be done on a yearly basis. Polling of student and alumni experiences could conceivably be conducted in conjunction with quality assurance cyclical program reviews.

Agents: Department Head, Dean of FAHSS, Quality Assurance Office

Completion by: Fall 2020

Recommendation 9: That the Department continue to monitor withdrawal rates from its PhD program to ensure that program admission requirements are appropriate, and that the program structure meets the needs and expectations of students; and that it report on its findings.

Agents: Department Head, Departmental Council

Completion by: Fall 2020

Recommendation 10: That the Department report on whether and how it might provide opportunities to graduate students to teach, for example guest lecturer or sessional instructor experience, in order to make them more competitive in the job market.

Agents: Department Head

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 11: That the Department find ways to increase its yearly intake of PhD students to the 3-5 range rather than the current 2-4 range.

Agents: Department Head, Departmental Council

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 12: In order to clarify expectations about the comprehensive examination process and questions about the nature of funding packages offered to incoming students, that the department organize a formal orientation session for incoming students, which would go beyond the usual 'meet and greet' social events organized by the department in the Fall semester.

Agents: Department Head

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 13: That the Department report on the feasibility of rejuvenating a revised version of the Master of Arts in Social Data Analysis (MASDA) program, having first developed a plan, in consultation of the Dean of FAHSS and the Budget Office, to make the program financially viable.

Agents: Department Head, Dean of FAHSS, Budget Office

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 14: That the Department identify the kinds of professional development opportunities that staff members are looking for and advocate on their behalf with the Dean of FAHSS and the Department of Human Resources.

Agents: Department Head, Dean of FAHSS, Department of Human Resources

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 15: That the Department continue its effort to enhance its presence on the web.

Agents: Department Head, ITS

Completion by: Fall 2020

Recommendation 16: That the Department develop a plan, in consultation with the Dean, about how it can achieve a 2-2 teaching load without jeopardizing the requirements of the undergraduate and graduate curriculum.

Agents: Department Head, Dean of FAHSS

Completion by: Fall 2018

Recommendation 17: That the Department, in consultation with the Dean of FAHSS, find ways to provide more adequate work and social space for graduate students.

Agents: Department Head, Dean of FAHSS

Completion by: Fall 2020