

Closure of an Undergraduate or Graduate Program

I. Program Information

Name and Type of Program	Canadian Studies Degree Programs
Home Academic Unit	Humanities Department, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Year Program Established	Unknown

II. Enrolment Data

Insert in the table below the enrolments in the program the past three academic years.

2016 – 2017	10
2015 – 2016	8
2014 – 2015	7

III. Reasons and Impact

Proposal Brief

Date: March 23, 2017

Program Closure: **Canadian Studies**

Background Information

The Department of Humanities is proposing that the degree program in Canadian Studies in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies be closed.

Degree options include a Specialized Honours BA (120 credits), an Honours BA (120 credits) and a BA (90 credits) in Canadian Studies and other possibilities such as an Honours Minor, a double major and a major/minor option linked to other programs at York University. Requirements for the 120 credit Specialized Honours degree in Canadian Studies include 6 mandatory core credits + 48 credits chosen from a list of Canadian Studies courses both from within Humanities and from other departments such as HIST, GEOG, POLS, SOSC, and EN. For the 120 credit Honours degree in Canadian Studies, students require 6 mandatory core credits + 36 credits chosen as above. Requirements for the 90 credit degree in Canadian Studies include 6 mandatory core credits + 24 credits chosen as above.

Canadian Studies remains a vibrant area of research and teaching at York as evidenced by the number of faculty who work in the field and the range of Canadian Studies courses offered across the university. The ongoing success of the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies provides additional evidence of the importance and vitality of Canadian Studies at York. However, in recent years, the LA&PS Canadian Studies degree program has failed to attract the number of majors that would ensure its sustainability. It is for this reason that the Cyclical Program Review Final Assessment Report from the Office of the Vice-Provost indicated that it may no longer need to exist as a distinct major. The Canadian Studies program was not addressed in last year's Cyclical Program Review given the lack of a program coordinator and relevant program committees. It also was not addressed in the previous Undergraduate Program Review for the same reason.

There are currently 10 majors in the degree program, and 6 are in the final year of their studies. In 2016 - 2017, there were only 3 New Year 1 students admitted to the program. The previous four years saw a total of only 4 New Year 1 students admitted to the program. Given the small number of majors in the program across all levels it has not been possible for students to form a cohort that would strengthen and enhance their educational experience. Additionally, the Canadian Studies program has not had a coordinator for the past several years, and as a result students have had no dedicated advisor to support their studies. The absence of a coordinator also has meant that there have been no program events or workshops offered for its students in recent years.

Students currently enrolled in the Canadian Studies degree program will have the opportunity to complete the degree or to select another major. For students who elect to continue in the degree program, completion of the degree program will be made possible through enrolment in program courses that continue to be offered or through approved course substitutions. Advising of continuing Canadian Studies majors will be undertaken by the Department of Humanities Undergraduate Program Director. Future students who wish to work in Canadian Studies will be able to do so through the Individualized Studies program, through the Humanities major, and through majors in other departments. As well, Glendon College offers a degree program in Canadian Studies.

There would be no impact on faculty members in Canadian Studies in Humanities as the courses offered as part of the degree in Canadian Studies are already part of the degree program in Humanities.

There would be no impact on other units as courses forming part of the degree in Canadian Studies are already part of the degree programs offered in other units.

This proposal was approved by the Department of Humanities on March 20, 2017. (27 votes in favour, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions)

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Memorandum

To: Whom it May Concern

From: J.J. McMurtry
Associate Dean, Programs

Date: April 03 2017

Subject: Approval of the Closure of the Canadian Studies Degree Program

On behalf of LA&PS Dean Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, I have reviewed the proposal to close the Canadian Studies Program and can offer the support of the faculty for this closure.

Given the very low number of students enrolled in the program, the strong support of the Department of Humanities for closure, the clear pathways available for students to graduate either with a grandparented Canadian Studies degree or with another major, and the continuation of many of the courses which support the degree there seems to be no reason to continue offering the degree.

