

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

CRIMINOLOGY

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

Criminology, Department of Social Science

Cyclical Program Review – 2008 to 2015

This Final Assessment Report (FAR) provides a synthesis of the cyclical review of the programs listed below.

Program(s) Reviewed

Honours BA Program (Single Major), Criminology
Honours Double Major BA Program, Criminology
Honours Double Major Interdisciplinary BA, Criminology
Honours (Major)/Minor BA Program, Criminology

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

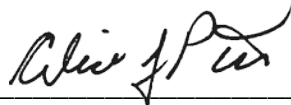
Dr. Gillian Balfour, Associate Professor, Sociology, Trent University
Dr. Bryan Hogeveen, Associate Professor, Sociology, University of Alberta
Dr. Aaron Lorenz, Dean, School of Social Science and Human Service, Ramapo College of New Jersey
Dr. Sonia Lawrence, Associate Dean, Research, Director Graduate Law Program, Director Institute for Feminist Legal Studies, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones

Cyclical Program Review Launch: September 2015
Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: August 19, 2016
Date of the Site Visit: October 18-19, 2016
Review Report received: December 16, 2016
Program Response received: March 16, 2017
Dean's Response received: May 2018

Implementation Plan and FAR confirmed by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, May 2018

Submitted by Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic, York University



This review was conducted under the York University Quality Assurance Protocol, August 2013.

Outcome:

An implementation plan has been approved that addresses the recommendations.

The Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance concurred with the recommendation of the Vice-Provost Academic that a post-CPR review involving the Department of Social Science is required in light of the departmental omnibus statement and the Dean's statement on departmental challenges. The outcomes of this departmental review, which will be undertaken collaboratively with the Office of the Vice-Provost, the Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies and the Department, will form part of the 18 month program Follow-up Report for Criminology as well as other programs housed in the Department. The Follow-up Report will provide an update on specific aspects of the implementation plan resulting from the cyclical program review as well as any further recommendations or action plans made in consideration of the Departmental Review.

The Follow-up Report will be due 18 months after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance (January 2020).

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2023 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2024 or Winter of 2025.

Program Description and Strengths:

The reviewers noted in their report that, "The Criminology faculty and staff are clearly committed to building and delivering an interdisciplinary curriculum, and have resisted the move towards criminology as a discipline unto itself. Instead, criminology at York is uniquely positioned as a program that challenges the orthodoxies of the discipline. The program is recognized for the unique and intellectually rich approach to the study of crime and crime control, featuring such areas as corporate, white collar crime, transnational crime, gender and surveillance crime, borders and immigration, and media culture and crime." They noted, "The curriculum overall is of exceptional quality, as made evident in the course syllabi.....there is creativity and innovation with regards to analytical approaches."

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The reviewers' recommendations are organized into short term (immediate) goals (2017-2018) and longer-term goals (2018-2020).

2017-2018**Recommendation 1:**

- 1a) Staffing of a tenure track in Research Methods (CRIM 2653), although we suggest with a Youth Justice focus given the high enrolments in this course No action required. The aforementioned hire has been made (one of two hires over the past two cycles) and the expectation is that this research methods course will be taught by this faculty member.

- 1b) ...and the development of a formal TA training module with appropriate professional development resources provided by the University.
Action: Vice Provost Academic and the Dean's Office to assess value of existing opportunities and work with the Teaching Commons and the Department of Social Science to develop professional development opportunities that would be made available to TAs for Criminology.
- 1c) We (the Reviewers) also agree there should be no increase in enrolment caps in the CRIM program until these matters are addressed.

No action required:

Recommendation 2:

We suggest the program consider carefully the implications of a placement or co-op type initiative in terms of the program's vision and capacity. We see placement or co-op as a completely different type of degree program that may come at a cost to the high quality of scholarly engagement student receive, unless both program tracks are fully supported.

This would seem an opportune time to revisit the idea of what improvements in experiential education would look like for CRIM. A reflection and articulation of what, if any, developments in EE for CRIM over the next 3 years would look like. This should be submitted to the Dean for discussion.

Action: Members of the Criminology program, in consultation with the Associate Vice President Teaching & Learning, will explore appropriate opportunities for students to participate in experiential education and submit findings to the Associate Dean Programs. Fall 2018

2018-2020

Recommendation 3:

Annual planning retreat organized for late August, with specific theme or rotating cognate department invited to participate (for example, Sociology or Women Studies).

No action required:

Recommendation 4:

Changes to the Program Curriculum Committee: We believe this committee should be faculty driven and work in consultation with the Undergraduate Program Director only to ensure compliance with university requirements. The mandate of the committee could be:

- Review of course syllabi on a rotating basis to discern overlap of duplication of

readings across cognate departments, and mapping of assessment tools over degree structure.

- Composition of committee: 1 faculty from CRIM, 1 faculty from Law and Society, 1 faculty from SOCI, and 1 faculty from another cognate department.
- Consistent meeting timelines; currently the Curriculum Committee meets “as necessary”.

Syllabi review of cross listed courses for duplication of readings and coherence of the degree structure especially given the heavy reliance on CUPE instructors.

Action: The activities recommended are exemplary practices and should be pursued. The program is encouraged to set up such a committee on a pilot basis and propose revision to the Department of Social Science governance documents to create a standing committee.

2018-2019

Recommendation 5:

Experiential expectations of students can be met through an Honours thesis course (12 credit) in the 4th year to students with a minimum 85% GPA. This should also include an annual student colloquium with the presentation of thesis research projects.

No action required: Recommendation 2 above addresses this suggestion.