

YORK UNIVERSITY

FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW – 2015 TO 2022

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA),

Certificate in Public Administration and Law

Certificate in Public Policy Analysis

Master of Public Policy Administration and Law (MPPAL),

Graduate Diploma in Justice System Administration, Type 2

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

PROGRAM(S) REVIEWED:

Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA)

Certificate in Public Administration and Law

Certificate in Public Policy Analysis (CPPA)

Master of Public Policy Administration and Law (MPPAL)

Graduate Diploma in Justice Administration, Type 2

REVIEWERS APPOINTED BY THE VICE-PROVOST ACADEMIC:

Dr. Evert Lindquist, Professor, School of Public Administration, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia

Dr. Lori Turnbull, Associate Professor and Director of School of Public Administration, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

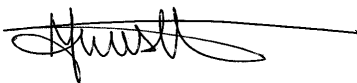
Dr. Franz Newland, Associate Professor, Space Engineering, Earth & Space Science & Engineering, Lassonde School of Engineering, York University

CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW KEY MILESTONES:

- Cyclical Program Review launch: September 15, 2021
- Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: August 24, 2022
- Date of the Site Visit: October 17-18, 2022
- Review Report received: February 2, 2023
- Program Response received: April 3, 2023
- Dean's Response received: October 16, 2023

Implementation Plan and FAR confirmed by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, February 7, 2024.

Submitted by Marcia Annisette, Vice-Provost Academic, York University



This review was conducted under the York University Quality Assurance Protocol, August 2020.

SITE VISIT: OCTOBER 17-18, 2022

The visit was organized around a set of interviews with the following individuals: Acting Vice-Provost Academic Alice Pitt Dean, Associate Vice-President Graduate Studies Thomas Loebel, Liberal Arts and Professional Studies Dean, J.J. McMurtry, Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies, Ravi de Costa, Vice Dean Programs, Sean Kheraj, the Director of SPPA, Alena Kimakova, Undergraduate Program Director, Joanne Magee, and Graduate Program Director, Naomi Couto. Library representatives were Jack Leong, Associate Dean of Libraries and Patti Ryan, Director, Content Development and Analysis, Scott Library. Administrative staff also met with the reviewers. Group meetings were held with full-time faculty members, part-time faculty members, TAs, undergraduate students, graduate students, and with alumni.

OUTCOME:

The Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance received the Program and Decanal responses to the recommendations and has approved an implementation plan.

A report on the progress of the initiatives undertaken in response to recommendations in general and as specified in the implementation plan will be provided in the Follow-up Report which will be due 18 months (August 2025) after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance.

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2029 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2030 or Winter of 2031.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND STRENGTHS:

The undergraduate programs offered by the School are as follows:

- Honours-only Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) program with optional specializations in Law, Justice and Public Policy; Management; or Policy Analysis (launch Fall 2010)
- Honours minor in Public Administration (to be combined with a major in another discipline in an Honours Bachelor degree program);
- Professional Certificate in Public Administration and Law (CPAL) (launched 2013)
- Professional Certificate in Public Policy Analysis (CPPA) (launched 2013).

The Honours BPA offers an interdisciplinary curriculum since Fall 2010, with a common core of courses and options for specialization in the upper years, in public policy and administration, or public policy and management, or public administration and justice studies.

The certificates, which enroll close to 300 students each year, offer formal training in administration, law and policy analysis to individuals, to students who are often in the public service and are from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds. The certificates may be completed concurrently with York undergraduate degrees or on a standalone basis for students who hold a bachelor's degree; both are open to full-time and part-time students.

The Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL) admitted its first students in 2007; the full-time option was introduced in 2019. Designed as an executive-style part-time program for mid-career professionals, courses are offered in the evenings and weekends, both on the Keele campus and at a downtown location. The new graduate field, focused on Municipal Government, has been approved for the Markham campus for the Fall of 2024.

The Graduate Diploma in Justice Administration is taken concurrently with a graduate degree at York, often with the MPPAL and equips students with both analytical and practical insights needed to administer justice system programs fairly, responsively, and effectively. It is geared to students who aspire to leadership positions in the justice system.

The external reviewers commended "the coherence, vitality, and great momentum of the SPPA (School of Public Policy and Administration) programs and the School as a whole," noting that they "believe that there is great scope for actively branding and promoting SPPA as one of Canada's important programs."

The reviewers noted that there is an opportunity for the School to broaden its programs to embrace the municipal and federal levels of government, while continuing to work closely with the Ontario Public Service. They suggested that the new Markham Campus, opening in Fall 2024, presents an important opportunity for not only the graduate degree, but the undergraduate program as well. Noting that decolonizing the curriculum and folding Indigenous content into the curriculum is an objective for all schools of public policy and administration across Canada, the reviewers acknowledge that this presents challenges for hiring indigenous positions. Despite these challenges, the reviewers suggested that alternate ways to update the curriculum be explored.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The chart below lays out the implementation plan approved by the Joint Sub-Committee at its meeting in February 7, 2024.

	Recommendation	Action	Responsible for Follow-up	Timeline
1.	That SPPA take ownership of recruiting for the BPA program.	The Director of SPPA will meet with Faculty administrators to consider innovative recruitment techniques and coordinate outreach strategies.	Director, SPPA Associate Director of recruitment, LA&PS Associate Dean Programs, LA&PS	Fall 2023/Winter 2024
2.	That non-SPPA core courses be tailored specifically for BPA students.	The School will modify course selection and sequencing for first and second year students to enhance cohort building and student success.	Director, SPPA Associate Director, Faculty Curriculum, LA&PS	Fall 2023/Winter 2024
3.	That the SPPA better integrate the internship and the program/course work.	The Director will meet with relevant offices in LA&PS to discuss co-op and internship opportunities, and to discuss the sequencing of program learning outcomes across year levels.	SPPA Director Associate Dean Teaching and Learning Associate Director Faculty Curriculum Associate Dean Programs	Fall 2023/Winter 2024

4.	That enhanced physical space and technical support be provided to the SPPA.	The School will consult with the LA&PS Dean's Office regarding opportunities at the new Markham campus and other university space.	SPPA Director Associate Dean Programs Deputy Provost Markham	Winter 2024 and ongoing
5.	That SPPA expand its focus beyond the Ontario Public Service.	The School will continue to enhance its curriculum and courses to incorporate other levels and systems of government.	SPPA Executive and/or Curriculum Committee	Fall/Winter 2023/2024
6.	That SPPA consider more hybrid course offerings.	The School and the Dean's Office will explore the appropriate blend of in person, hybrid and online content for their programs.	Director, SPPA Associate Dean Programs	Fall/Winter 2023/2024
7.	That SPPA build a unique, recognizable brand.	The School will continue to work with experts in LA&PS on branding, publications, marketing and promotion of the School's unique identity.	Director, SPPA Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing, LA&PS	Fall 2023 and ongoing
8.	That SPPA defer the development of a PhD program until the next planning cycle.	The School will continue to build its capacity to support a graduate research training program. A working group with members from the School and members of the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs, to investigate if there is interest in the development of a PhD program in Public Policy and	Graduate Program, SPPA Director, SPPA Director, Glendon School of Public Policy and International Affairs	Fall 2027

		Administration over the next four years and then inform the Dean and Principal of its findings.		
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