

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report - Executive Summary

Cyclical Program Review

**Bachelor of Commerce, Undergraduate (BCom)
2014 - 2021**

Professional Certificates 2013 - 2021

**Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting
(PACC) 2017- 2022**

**School of Administrative Studies
Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional
Studies**

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

PROGRAM(S) REVIEWED:

Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)

Professional Certificates: (Accounting, Financial Planning, Health Services Financial Management, Information Technology, Auditing & Assurance, Investment Management, Logistics, Management, and Marketing)

Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting (PACC)

REVIEWERS APPOINTED BY THE VICE-PROVOST ACADEMIC:

Professor Jane Bowen, FCPA, FCA, Associate Teaching Professor, Accounting, Faculty of Business and Information Technology, Ontario Tech University, Oshawa, Ontario

Dr. Camillo Lento, FCPA, FCA, Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario

Dr. Neil Buckley, Undergraduate Program Director, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University, Toronto, Ontario

CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW KEY MILESTONES:

Cyclical Program Review launch: September 15, 2021

Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic:

Bachelor of Commerce (BCom): December 19, 2022

Professional Certificates: October 25, 2022

Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting: October 28, 2022

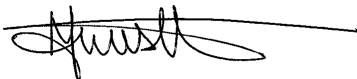
Date of the Site Visit: March 20-22, 2023

Review Report received: May 31, 2023

Program Response received: August 4, 2023

Dean's Response received: February 8, 2024

Implementation Plan and FAR confirmed by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, March 18, 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: MARCH 20-22, 2023

The site visit took place virtually over three days, beginning with a meeting with the Vice-Provost Academic, Lyndon Martin and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Thomas Loebel. The reviewers met with the Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, JJ McMurtry, followed by a meeting with the Associate Dean, Programs, Maggie Quirt, the Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning, Anita Lam, and the Associate Dean, Graduate Studies Ravi da Costa. The reviewers met with the executive team of the School of Administrative Studies, including Director, Nelson Waweru and Undergraduate Program Director, Cristobal Sanchez-Rodriguez and also with area coordinators for the BCom. In-depth talks were held with the Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting (PACC) coordinator, Joanna Jones. and the previous coordinator, Sandra Iacobelli. The reviewers noted their “lively discussion” with a group of full-time BCom faculty members, followed by a second group to allow for smaller groups. A meeting was also organized for part-time faculty members from the BCom program. Open discussions were held with staff supporting the programs. The reviewers discussed research and study resources and spaces with the York Library’s Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning, Sheril Hook, and Scholarly Communications Librarian, Stephanie Quail.

An “energetic” group of undergraduate students met with the reviewers, as well as a group of “very engaged” BCom alumni, and an “exciting group” of current students and alumni from the PACC program.

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 (October 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 School of Administrative Studies (SAS) offers the following undergraduate business programs:

- Bachelor of Commerce (BCom), 90 credit
- BCom, Specialized Honours with eight stream options: Accounting, Business Research, Business Technology Management, Finance, Human Resources Management, Management, Marketing and Supply Chain Management
- Professional Certificates:
 - Accounting
 - Financial Planning
 - Investment Management
 - Health Services Financial Management
 - Information Technology Auditing and Assurance
 - Logistics
 - Management
 - Marketing

Students pursuing majors in any Honours degree may add the Business Minor or the Marketing Minor. A new stream of the BCom, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, will be launched at the Markham Centre Campus in Fall 2024.

The Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting (PACC) was launched in January 2017 as a stand-alone diploma consisting of five courses. It is one of the few diploma programs accredited by the CPA Ontario that covers all four CPA elective modules. The Diploma may be taken on a full-time or part-time basis. Courses are offered evenings and weekends to accommodate work schedules.

The Bachelor of Commerce is intended to provide traditional business education in combination within the context of a liberal arts education. As such, students take a combination of business discipline courses in marketing, finance, decision sciences, accounting, information systems, management, and liberal arts courses in humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

The Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario (CPA Ontario) has approved BCom courses as CPA prerequisite courses for entry into the CPA Professional Education program, and the combination of the BCom Specialized Honours Accounting Stream and the Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting as an accredited program. Financial Planning Canada has approved specific courses in the BCom and the Professional Certificate in Financial Planning as satisfying its Core and Advanced Curriculum requirements leading to the Qualified Associate Financial Planner (QAFP) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designations.

The reviewers strongly support a planned curriculum review to improve student learning. The reviewers also note that major changes to the CPA Canada Curriculum Map are forthcoming and suggested that “in undertaking a curriculum review, faculty

and administration must work together to ensure that faculty are engaged and that administrative processes do not limit faculty engagement.”

Noting a declining number of graduates with certificates over the past decade, the review report notes that while the certificates provide additional opportunities to professional learning for various subject areas, they may be too complicated for most students to pursue.

The review report included suggestions for mechanisms to increase student and faculty engagement outside of the classroom. The fact that most courses are offered only in the evening and the lack of physical space to create a sense of community were noted as impediments to creating a sense of community.

Regarding the Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting (PACC), the reviewers noted in their report, “the Coordinators and faculty are the core strength of this program.” The success and students and their overall satisfaction with the program is a testament to the strength of the program.”

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The chart below lays out the implementation plan approved by the Joint Sub-Committee at its meeting in March 18, 2024.

In addition to these formal recommendations, the reviewers made a number of suggestions for implementation in the body of the Report, which the Program will review and consider.

	Recommendation	Action	Responsible for Follow-up	Timeline
	BACHELOR OF COMMERCE (BCOM)			
1.	That the alignment between the Program Learning Objectives [Outcomes] (PLOs) and the University's and the School's missions be strengthened.	<p>After finalizing the reviewed mission statement relative to the aligned strategic goals of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies and the University, the school will review the BCom Program Objectives, Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), and curriculum map.</p> <p>PLOs will be communicated to students via course outlines in a consistent and coordinated manner.</p>	<p>School Director Undergraduate Program Director (UPD) LA&PS Associate Director, Faculty Curriculum LA&PS Associate Dean Programs</p>	<p>Revisioning complete by April 2024; curriculum mapping and updated courses for September 2024, where possible, and no later than for the Fall/Winter 2025 session.</p>
2.	That the Program Learning Outcomes be refined and their assessment be further developed.	<p>The School will refine the Program Learning Outcomes and curriculum map and develop a clear structure for the assessment of the Program Learning Outcomes. This work will be supported by resources in the Dean's Office.</p>	<p>UPD Area Coordinators LA&PS Associate Director, Faculty Curriculum LA&PS Associate Dean Programs</p>	<p>Begin in Spring 2024 and extend into the 2024/2025 academic year as required.</p>

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AND GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING

3.	That data-based decision-making be employed for decisions related to the BCom, particularly around issues related to retention.	<p>The School, in collaboration with relevant individuals in the Dean’s office, will regularly compile and analyse retention data and intake data.</p> <p>An ad-hoc committee or taskforce will be formed, with the participation of the Director or UPD, to address issues related to student retention.</p>	<p>School Director UPD Dean’s Office LA&PS Associate Dean Programs LA&PS Associate Dean Students LA&PS Associate Dean Teaching and Learning LA&PS Director, Academic Advising, Student Petitions & Student Relations LA&PS College Heads</p>	Begin in Spring 2024 and extend into the 2024/2025 academic year to identify relevant data sources and analysis supports.
	GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING			
4.	That the position of Director be formalized and an implementation plan for the revised Certification 2.0 program be established, including mechanisms to keep faculty and administration aware of this program.	The program will continue work on the plan for accreditation and the new Certification 2.0 program. The Dean and School will meet regarding the position of Director and related discussions with the Joint Committee on the Administration of the Agreement (JCOA).	<p>School Director Program Coordinator Dean’s Office</p>	Winter term 2024 and ongoing
5.	That a comprehensive review of the value proposition of the School’s certificates be undertaken.	The School will assess the value of each of its certificate offerings to determine if some	<p>UPD Area Coordinators Associate Dean Programs LA&PS Associate Dean</p>	The assessment of certificates to be completed by April 20, 2025.

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		certificates should be eliminated or revisited.	Programs LA&PS Associate Director, Faculty Curriculum	
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