

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

**SCHOOL OF HEALTH POLICY &
MANAGEMENT (SHPM)**

Faculty of Health

Health Studies, Undergraduate (BHS)

CPR (2013-2020)

Graduate Program in Health (MA, PhD)

CPR (2009-2020)

Graduate Program in Critical Disability Studies
(MA, PhD)

CPR (2011-2020)

Health Informatics Certificate

CPR (2014-2020)

Cyclical Program Review – 2009 to 2020

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

Program(s) Reviewed:

Bachelor of Health Studies (BHS)
MA, PhD in Health
MA, PhD in Critical Disability Studies
Certificate in Health Informatics

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

Dr. Elizabeth McGibbon, Professor, Rankin School of Nursing, St Francis Xavier University
Dr. Michel Grignon, Professor, Department of Economics and Department of Health, Aging & Society, Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, McMaster University
Dr. Uzo Anucha, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, York University

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones:

Cyclical Program Review launch: September 19, 2019
Self-Study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: September 15, 2020
Date of the Site Visit: February 17-19, 2021
Review Report received: May 3, 2021
Program Response received: August 31, 2021
Dean's Response received: June 8, 2022

Implementation Plan and FAR confirmed by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, September 2022

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



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

SITE VISIT (Virtual) Via Zoom: February 17-19, 2021

The visit was organized around a set of virtual Zoom interviews with multiple stakeholder groups that included:

- Lyndon Martin, Vice Provost Academic
- Thomas Loebel, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Dean, Paul McDonald, Faculty of Health
- Liane Ginsburg, Interim Chair
- Lynda van Dreumel, Undergraduate Program Director
- Rachel da Silveira Gorman, Graduate Program Director CDS
- Claudia Chauhan, Graduate Program Director, Health
- Judith MacDonnell, Associate Dean of Students
- Susan Murtha, Associate Dean of Learning & Teaching
- Michael Rotondi, Associate Dean of Research
- Jack Leong, Associate Dean of Research and Open Scholarship, and Thumeka Mgwigwi, Teaching and Learning Librarian
- Faculty members and part-time faculty members, Undergraduate Program (BHS); faculty members, Graduate Program in CDS; faculty members, Graduate Program in Health;
- Undergraduate students, graduate students (CDS), graduate students (Health)
- Graduate Program Assistant CDS, Graduate Program Assistant Health

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the visit was conducted entirely remotely, via Zoom. As such, no facilities were seen by the reviewers.

The reviewers noted in their report that interviewees were also invited to submit any additional comments or data via email. They were contacted by a small number of participants.

OUTCOME:

The Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance received the Program and Decanal responses to the recommendations and has approved an implementation plan. Plans for responding to recommendations are clear and implementation will enhance the quality of the programs and student experience.

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 after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance (in February 2024).

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2027 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2028 or Winter of 2029.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND STRENGTHS:

The School of Health Policy and Management (SHPM) was established in 2001 with the aim of offering undergraduates a broad perspective on all aspects of the health care system, including the emerging fields of health policy, health management and health informatics, as well as about the social and structural determinants of health that influence the health of Canadians. The School joined the Faculty of Health in 2007, and it has also played an integral role in the Global Health program, with respect to supporting the development of core curriculum as well as teaching and housing new faculty hires. In 2020 a new School of Global Health in the Faculty of Health was approved and thus some of the faculty complement housed temporarily in SHPM have moved to the new School.

Undergraduate Programs: The general objective of the undergraduate programs is to provide students with a high-quality multi-disciplinary education in the critical examination of health policy, management and informatics. The reviewers indicate that the curriculum offers up-to-date content in health policy, health management, and health informatics, and that the health policy and management content is clearly consistent with current theoretical trends in the fields. They also see the program as reflective of cutting-edge learning that connects with the original intent of program design in terms of synthesizing critical social scientific knowledge with knowledge of health policy and health systems. They see clear evidence of ongoing innovation and creativity in the programs, including contemporary teaching tools and methods across numerous courses, and they note that several faculty members recently received Innovation in Teaching and Academic Innovation Awards and grants directly related to enhancing teaching excellence, including interdisciplinary innovation.

The Health Informatics Certificate: The 30-credit certificate program teaches students about the use of information management as it relates to all aspects of the health care sector as well as developing and managing information systems. Through seminars, laboratory simulations and self-directed research, students broaden their knowledge and expertise in health care and examine issues such as the societal implications of health informatics.

Graduate Program in Health

The aim of the Graduate Program in Health (MA and PhD) is to provide broad training in health, including health policy, ethics and law, economics, decision making and 'science' with a focus on health equity. The reviewers noted that the program reflects the current state of the disciplines of health policy and health equity, and that core faculty are national or international leaders in the field, often contributing to the larger research and policy debate in the areas taught by the program. They also found the program to be clearly innovative in its course offerings, and they commend it for delivering strong faculty support to students.

Critical Disability Studies (CDS):

The objective of the Graduate Program in CDS (MA, PhD) is to explore disability studies from a critical and inter-disciplinary perspective. The reviewers noted that the CDS

program is unique in Canada and reflects the current state of the area of study, with learning outcomes in the field of theories of human rights (law, mostly for Master's students), critical disability studies (review of the literature and current debates), intersectionality and disability, and critical analysis of policy related to disability. The reviewers found the objectives clear and well aligned with those of the Faculty of Health and the University, and saw the courses as well aligned with the expertise of the core faculty complement of the program.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The chart below lays out the implementation plan approved by the Joint Sub-Committee at its meeting in September 2022.

	Recommendation	Action	Responsible for Follow-up	Timeline
1.a.	Develop graduate and undergraduate student handbooks to enhance timely student progress and success in the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the UG level, engage with student representatives to understand their information needs and revise and re-organize website content to be user-friendly and better serve student information needs.• Develop and implement mechanisms within the SHPM program to embed more opportunities to connect students to OSAS advising for course selection and degree progress discussions.• At the grad level, host a yearly meet and greet session with new graduate students to give them an opportunity to meet senior grad students, staff, faculty members, GPDs and to acquaint them with the information they will need as they move through their programs and where such information is located.	UPD and GPDs	Fall 2022

1.b.	Assess program impact of having one graduate program administrative assistant to support both programs.	Determine time spent on the various role functions of the graduate program assistant and program secretary roles, and determine whether there are pan-university resources that could be utilized to facilitate graduate students' timely access to resources.	Chair, Executive Officer, GPA, Dean	Winter 2023
2.a.	Adjust the undergraduate Health Program curriculum to support development of cohesive cohorts: include more required courses (and necessarily fewer electives) at the introductory level, and follow-up with one or more capstone courses in the senior year.	The School has already undertaken action to meet the proposed recommendation, including a major modification passed at Senate to merge their three specialized honours programs together. In addition to the core 42 credits, specialized knowledge in health policy, management, and/or digital health will be obtained through 30 upper-level credits for all BHS specialized honours students.	BHS Renewal lead, UPD	Students will be admitted to the revised BHS program for Fall 2023.
2.b.	Integrate a practicum placement officer/coordinator.	Continue to monitor need; reassess resources when student enrolment and demand increase.	Chair, UPD, Associate Dean Learning Teaching Academic Programs	Ongoing
2.c.	Systematically review the program using the same model of class size	The Dean disagrees with this recommendation and instead proposes the development and implementation a 105 strategy, building a brand and augmenting	Chair, UPD, Associate Dean of Students, UPD, Director	Plan developed by Fall 2023

	caps, particularly in the senior year, as the other programs in the Faculty of Health.	marketing materials. Reconsider changing the BHS to a BA degree.	Communications and Planning, OIPA	
2d.	Mentor students in the development of a concise professional portfolio that lays out skill acquisition and experiences.	Explore this option with course directors who are interested in implementing it early in the program and identify summative assessment. Inform instructors and students of York Libraries resources that enable students to build their own e-portfolios.	CDs, UPD, EE Coordinators	Fall 2022
3.a.	Create mechanisms to support Adjunct Faculty in undertaking supervisory roles.	Ensure the program and potential adjuncts are aware of the guidelines for adjunct appointments, what the process is, and limitations/expectations of an adjunct.	Dean, Chair	Fall 2022
3.b.	Provide office space (not only a lounge, but desks, lockers in rooms) for both graduate programs.	Monitor the availability and use of additional space that has been allocated.	Department Manager and Chair	Fall 2022
3.c.	At the Faculty of Health administrative level, assess and improve building accessibility according to provincial accessibility standards.	Monitor the situation and address as needed.	Dean, Executive Officer, university-level committee under the AVF&A	Ongoing

3.d.1	Consider allowing MA students to complete in two years while adding one supplementary RA-ship.	The MA program has been approved and funded as a one-year program. Graduate staff play a key role in ensuring that students access the resources and supports they need in order to complete in a timely fashion. Continue to monitor the demands placed on graduate staff and increase resource capacity if necessary.	Chair, GPD, Executive Officer, Dean	Report on nature and scope of demand by September 2023
3.d.2	Delay consideration of development of an undergraduate CDS program. For the time being, focus should ideally remain on achieving excellence in the CDS graduate offerings.	Proceed with the development of the new program with the expectation that an attractive UG program will provide a source of revenue that, in turn, will serve to enhance the graduate program.	Chair, faculty members who are proponents of the new program, Educational Developer/Curriculum Design Specialist, Associate Dean of Learning, Teaching, Academic programs. Consult OIPA re need and demand research	NOI in Winter 2023. Proposal to be submitted in Winter 2024.
3.d.3	Implement a required or elective survey course in research inquiry early in the program, where students are introduced to methodological inquiry (not only qualitative and quantitative).	The Program and the Dean disagree with the reviewers' recommendation. The program has a required graduate research methods course. Adding an additional course would impact time to completion and a general methodology course will not likely meet the needs for every dissertation. Continue with the program's current method of advising students to take specialized methodology courses that inform their own projects.	Chair, GPD	No additional action to be taken.
4.	The HIC program	The HIC program will participate in the self-	UPD, Informatics	2027

	<p>should complete its own self-study prior to the next review so that program processes and outcomes can be systematically assessed in the context of SPHM overall programmatic goals.</p>	<p>study process during the next review cycle.</p> <p><i>Note: The HIC program completed the cyclical program review template for certificates. At the next review, an invitation for a separate meeting with the certificate program should be made available to reviewers.</i></p>	<p>Certificate Coordinator, Chair</p>	
5.	<p>Provide more health field content through offering courses specifically focused on core health field knowledge.</p>	<p>Action completed via curricular modifications at the UG and GR levels.</p>	<p>UPD and GPDs</p>	<p>Summer / Fall 2021</p>