

**University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP)  
Cyclical Review: Final Assessment Report**

<b>Program(s):</b>	Sociology, BA: Specialist, Major, Minor Sociology, MA and PhD
<b>Division/Unit:</b>	Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Science
<b>Commissioning Officer:</b>	Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science
<b>Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Neil Guppy, Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia</li> <li>2. Dr. Peter V. Marsden, Edith and Benjamin Geisinger Professor of Sociology, Dean of Social Science, and Harvard College Professor, Harvard University</li> <li>3. Dr. Patricia Roos, Professor, Department of Sociology, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey</li> </ol>
<b>Date of review visit:</b>	November 28-29, 2011
<b>Date reported to AP&amp;P:</b>	October 29, 2012

**1. Outcome:**

- The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.

**2. Significant program strengths:**

- High quality undergraduate and graduate programs
- Status of Department as “the top Canadian department in its discipline” and one of world’s best sociology departments
- “Very high research and scholarly profile” of faculty
- High quality undergraduate and graduate students
- Successful Tri-Campus delivery of graduate programs

**3. Opportunities for program improvement and enhancement. The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:**

- Addressing undergraduate class size to enhance opportunities for discussion, written assignments, analysis, and direct engagement with faculty or TAs
- Examining the possibility of expanding the graduate program
- Examining TA opportunities for graduate students and determining ways in which they may enhance student learning
- Preparing for faculty renewal and examining the balance between types of faculty positions
- Assessing the department’s space in light of its needs as well as staff support structure

**4. Implementation Plan**

The Dean undertook in consultation with the Department to support the following changes:

- Immediate Term (6 months)
  - Assessing the department’s space
    - i. The Department has thoroughly inventoried and assessed its space, realigned it to use it more efficiently, and reorganized it to facilitate the interaction of faculty and students in the Tri-Campus graduate program
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
  - Addressing undergraduate class; preparing for faculty renewal
    - i. The Faculty has allocated one teaching stream and one tenure stream appointment to the Department to address enrolment pressures, and will engage in searches to fill these positions in 2012-13 and 2014-15
    - ii. In 2012-13 the Department will explore options for reducing class sizes including offering more courses, lowering the cap on existing courses, increasing the grade required in Sociology 101 to enter Sociology programs, and adding more tutorial sections
  - Examining the possibility of expanding the graduate program

- i. The Department is exploring ways to create top-up scholarships to recruit top ranked domestic and international students, and has struck a fundraising committee that will work with the Faculty's Advancement Office to support this goal
  - Examining TA opportunities
    - i. In coordination with the Dean's Office, the Department will explore models to enhance training opportunities for graduate students, including opportunities to teach undergraduate courses
- Longer Term (3-5 years)
  - Assessing the department's space
    - i. The Department will reevaluate space requirements if graduate enrolment expands or new faculty are hired beyond the next few years

The Dean's Office will follow up annually with the unit on these plans to assess progress.

## **5. Executive Summary**

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as high quality programs, very high research and scholarly profile of faculty, high quality students, and successful Tri-Campus delivery of graduate programs within the "top" Canadian and one of the world's best sociology departments. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: undergraduate class size, graduate enrolment expansion, TA opportunities for graduate students, faculty renewal and space. The Department is conducting searches for two new hires to address enrolment pressures and is exploring additional options for reducing class size. In conjunction with the Faculty's Advancement Office, the Department is exploring ways to create top-up scholarships to recruit top domestic and international students. In coordination with the Dean's Office, the Department will explore models to enhance training opportunities for graduate students, including opportunities to teach undergraduate courses. The Department has assessed, inventoried, realigned and reorganized its space to use it more efficiently and effectively and will reevaluate space needs if graduate enrolment or faculty complement expands substantially. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.