



University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) Cyclical Review: Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

Program(s):	Logic, B.A., Hons: Major Philosophy, B.A., Hons: Specialist, Major
Division/Unit:	Department of Philosophy, UTM
Commissioning Officer:	Vice Principal Academic and Dean, UTM
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	1. Dr. Jay Wallace, Professor of Philosophy, University of California Berkeley 2. Dr. Bernard Linsky, Professor of Philosophy, University of Alberta
Date of review visit:	January 12 and 13, 2012
Date reported to AP&P:	April 3, 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 of faculty and commitment to students and UTM
- Well-conceived specialist and major programs that contribute to the development of both reasoning and communication skills
- Very high morale among students, staff and faculty

3 Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Revising the undergraduate curriculum to create more clarity between levels and flexibility by addressing course overlap, the structure of the introductory course, and scheduling conflicts; by aligning the requirements of the specialist with those of other campuses; and by introducing a required fourth year seminar in the major program to create a capstone experience
- Increasing the number of small group interactive experiences to create more opportunities for discussion and exchange
- Reviewing the commitment to the Logic major given low enrolment and limited faculty resources

4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate term (6 months)
 - Increasing the number of small group interactive experiences
 - The Dean will provide additional funds to establish additional tutorials in larger classes
 - Revising the undergraduate curriculum
 - The Department will continue to schedule classes to minimize scheduling conflicts and maximize use of available time
- Medium term (1 -2 years)
 - Increasing the number of small group interactive experiences
 - The Department will rationalize some of its lower enrolment courses to support the creation of additional tutorials
 - The Department will offer more fourth-year courses, giving students more access to seminar-style courses
 - Revising the undergraduate curriculum
 - The Department commits to a curriculum review that will address the curricular issues raised by the reviewers
 - The Dean has encouraged the Department to increase the flexibility of the specialist program to align it with requirements on other campuses
 - The Department is investigating several options for structuring first-year offerings, including the possibility of creating an introductory course that focuses on the application of philosophical principles to current events and issues
 - The Department will streamline and make more transparent the difference (in content and approach) between 200- and 300-level courses
 - The Department will amend the major to make the fourth year seminar-style course a requirement
- Longer term (3-5 years)
 - Reviewing the commitment to the Logic major

- The Department will review its commitment to the Logic major as part of the curriculum review process, and will likely discontinue this program given low enrolment
- Enrolment growth
 - The Dean proposed that the Department vigorously pursue outreach to the high schools, including working with the Ontario Philosophy Teachers' Association to publicize the program
 - The Dean has encouraged the Department to explore possible linkages with other departments building on the potential of philosophy to develop generalizable skills of argumentation and analysis

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

5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the program's strengths as high quality, committed faculty; well-conceived specialist and major programs; and very high student, staff and faculty morale. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: curriculum clarity, structure and flexibility; opportunities for small group interactive experiences; and demand for the Logic major. The Department is undertaking a curriculum review to address course overlap, revamp first-year offerings, address the design of the specialist program, and introduce a fourth-year seminar requirement in the major. The Department is committed to increasing the number of small group interactive experiences by increasing the number of tutorials in large classes and by increasing the number of fourth year seminar-style courses. The Department will consider closing the Logic major. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the reviewers' recommendations.