



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

Program(s):	Economics, B.A., Hons.: Specialist, Major, Minor Economics (Commerce and Finance), B.Com.: Specialist - Offered with University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) Department of Management Financial Economics, B.A., Hons.: Specialist International Affairs, B.A., Hons.: Specialist Human Resources and Industrial Relations, B.A., Hons.: Major* Economics and Political Science, B.A., Hons.: Specialist - Offered with Department of Political Science, UTM *admissions to this program was suspended September 25, 2013
Division/Unit:	Department of Economics, UTM
Commissioning Officer:	Vice-Principal Academic and Dean, Amy Mullin Office of the Dean, University of Toronto Mississauga
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	1. Professor Audra Bowlus, Department of Economics, University of Western Ontario 2. Professor Charles Clotfelter, Duke Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University
Date of review visit:	March 24 & 25, 2014
Date reported to AP&P:	October 28, 2014

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 educational experiences offered through the programs
- Breadth of field and specialized courses available to students
- Innovative teaching techniques and program design developed by dedicated faculty
- Faculty research and initiatives linking research to student learning

3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Continuing to monitor applicants' performance in first-year, quantitative courses
- Strengthening the student experience across all program streams
- Obtaining increased data to facilitate tracking of student performance, time-to-completion, and post-graduation pathways
- Examining the role of mid-career faculty within the Departmental complement
- Increasing faculty cohesion and identity with the UTM undergraduate program and building the Department's reputation

4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
 - Continuing to screen applicants' performance in first-year, quantitative courses
 - The Department plans to raise the mathematics requirements for the Economics Specialist programs.
 - The Department will consult with other departments on the impact of altering the mathematics requirements for the Major program.
 - Strengthening the student experience across all program streams
 - The Department's Curriculum Committee and first-year instructors will examine program entrance requirements.
 - The Department will seek to increase the cohesion of the curriculum and program delivery in upper years.
 - The Department will continue to encourage faculty participation in the UTM Research Opportunity programs, providing increased research experiences for students.
 - The Department will use a number of strategies to place greater emphasis on writing.
 - The Department will continue to provide students with opportunities to write research papers in existing courses and through participation in faculty research.
 - Tracking student performance, time-to-completion, and post-graduation pathways
 - The Registrar's Office will continue to gather student data, analysis of which will benefit the Department
 - The Department will use faculty expertise to identify effective teaching methods which lead to better student learning outcomes.
 - The Department will continue to encourage student participation in online course evaluations as a means of gaining valuable feedback.

- Examining the role of mid-career faculty
 - The Department will continue to explore means of attracting and retaining top faculty.
- Increasing faculty cohesion and identity with the UTM undergraduate program
 - Faculty will continue to develop schedules that are responsive to undergraduate student needs.
 - The Department will explore means of enhancing faculty-student interactions outside of the classroom.
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
 - Tracking student performance, time-to-completion, and post-graduation pathways
 - The Department will implement an exit survey of graduating students.
 - The Department will work with the UTM Alumni Relations Office to strengthen ties with alumni and track student outcomes after graduation.

The Dean's Office will follow up annually with the Department to assess progress.

5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as being the high quality of educational experiences; the range of field and specialized courses; innovative teaching techniques and program design; and initiatives linking faculty research to student learning. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: continuing to monitor applicants' performance in first-year, quantitative courses; strengthening the student experience across all program streams; obtaining increased data to track student metrics; examining the role of mid-career faculty; and increasing faculty cohesion and identity with the UTM undergraduate program and building the Department's reputation. In response, the Department will consider raising the mathematics requirements of its programs. To strengthen student experience, the Department will increase cohesion in the upper-year curriculum, continue to provide research experiences for students, and place greater emphasis on writing. To facilitate tracking of student performance and other metrics, the Department will work with the Registrar's Office and the Alumni Office to gather and analyze student data. In examining the role of mid-career faculty, the Department will continue to explore means of attracting and retaining top faculty. The Department will explore means of enhancing faculty-student interactions outside of the classroom. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.