



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

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| <b>Programs Reviewed:</b>                 | Computer Science, B.Sc., Hons.: Specialist, Major, Minor<br>Applied Computing, Master of Science in Applied Computing (M.Sc.A.C.)<br>Computer Science, M.Sc., Ph.D.  |
| <b>Division/Unit Reviewed:</b>            | Department of Computer Science   |
| <b>Commissioning Officer:</b>             | Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science  |
| <b>Reviewers<br/>(Name, Affiliation):</b> | 1. Prof. James F. Kurose, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor, College of Information and Computer Sciences, University of Massachusetts<br>2. Prof. Alan Mackworth, Ph.D. Department of Computer Science, University of British Columbia<br>3. Prof. Éva Tardos, Ph.D., Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of Computer Science, Department of Computer Science, Cornell University |
| <b>Date of Review Visit:</b>              | February 3–5, 2014   |
| <b>Date Reported to AP&amp;P:</b>         | October 27, 2015   |

## 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

- Flexible, model undergraduate curriculum

- Well-conceived, growing undergraduate program is a “gem” of the University
- Highly competitive graduate programs attract excellent students
- Excellent reputation and visibility of doctoral program
- Faculty leadership in Canadian research networks
- Partnerships with external institutions and outreach activities

### **3 Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement**

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Increasing undergraduate course offerings and opportunities to work with tenure-track faculty
- Strengthening graduate course offerings
- Maintaining quality of graduate students and managing time-to-completion
- Expanding coverage of key disciplinary areas in the curriculum and research and increasing international publication and citation rankings
- Building communication and relationships among faculty and addressing physical separation of the Department across multiple locations
- Modernizing laboratories to meet student needs

### **4 Implementation Plan**

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
  - Increasing undergraduate course offerings and opportunities to work with tenure-track faculty
    - The Department will complete several academic searches in 2015-16. Limited-term lecturer positions will be used to bridge ongoing academic searches.
  - Strengthening graduate course offerings
    - The Department will review breadth requirements and report findings to the Vice-Dean, Graduate Education & Program by the end of the 2015-16 academic year. Changes to requirements will be taken through appropriate governance processes.
  - Maintaining quality of graduate students and managing time-to-completion
    - The Department has adopted new PhD program check points, designed to accelerate student progress and provide more timely feedback to students.
  - Expanding coverage of key disciplinary areas and increasing international publication and citation rankings
    - The Department and the Faculty are addressing overall complement concerns, which will help international publication and citation rankings.
  - Building communication and relationships among faculty and addressing physical separation of the Department across multiple locations

- The Department and the Dean's office will find ways to engage both faculty and staff in decision-making.
- The Faculty is engaging with the Department to update the Department's space assessment. Based on this assessment, the Faculty will identify opportunities to reorganize and consolidate space in a manner that better suits departmental needs.
- Enhancing Departmental resources
  - The Faculty has allocated funding for limited term teaching appointments and tenure searches.
- Longer Term (3–5 years)
  - Increasing undergraduate course offerings and opportunities to work with tenure-track faculty
    - The Department will submit requests for future faculty lines to the Faculty Appointments Committee.
  - Building communication and relationships among faculty and addressing physical separation of the Department across multiple locations
    - The Faculty is working on plans for a potentially new site which would bring together the Department. Discussions with the University's Campus & Facilities Planning Office began in 2015-16.

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

## 5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as the flexible, model undergraduate curriculum; well-conceived, growing undergraduate program's reputation as a "gem" of the University; highly competitive graduate programs attract excellent students; excellent reputation and visibility of doctoral program; faculty leadership in Canadian research networks; and partnerships with external institutions and outreach activities. The reviewers recommended that the followings issues be addressed: increasing undergraduate course offerings and opportunities to work with tenure-track faculty; strengthening graduate course offerings; maintaining quality of graduate students; expanding coverage of key disciplinary areas and increasing international publication and citation rankings; building communication and relationships among faculty; addressing physical fragmentation of the Department across multiple locations and modernizing laboratories to meet student needs; and enhancing Departmental resources. The Department will complete several academic searches in 2015-16. The Department has adopted new PhD program check points, designed to accelerate student progress and provide more timely feedback to students. The Faculty will work with the Department to update its space assessment and will identify opportunities to reorganize and consolidate space in a manner that better suits departmental needs. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.