

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

<b>Program(s):</b>	History and Philosophy of Education (MA, MEd) Sociology in Education (MA, MEd, EdD, PhD)
<b>Division/Unit:</b>	<i>[review of programs only; as of July 1, 2012, programs belong to Department of Humanities, Social Sciences and Social Justice Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto]</i>
<b>Commissioning Officer:</b>	Dean, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto
<b>Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Kal Alston, Senior Vice President for Human Capital Development and Professor of Cultural Foundations of Education and Women's and Gender Studies, Syracuse University</li> <li>2. Dr. Rosa Bruno-Jofré, Professor and former Dean, Faculty of Education, Queen's University</li> <li>3. Dr. Lyn Yates, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Foundation Chair of Curriculum, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne</li> </ol>
<b>Date of review visit:</b>	March 22-23, 2012
<b>Date reported to AP&amp;P:</b>	October 29, 2012

**1. Outcome:**

- The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) requested a follow up report in two years on the new curriculum model, thesis stream student-faculty ratio, faculty research and the faculty renewal plan.

**2. Significant program strengths:**

- A number of faculty have strong research and publication records
- Many graduates are leaders in their field
- Reviewers recognized that the programs were in transition and strongly endorsed the Department's vision of the revamped interdisciplinary structure and curriculum

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

- Developing a new curricular model that balances disciplinary and interdisciplinary study based on some of the program's traditional strengths, and defines a common core and strands with a focused curriculum for each of the strands
- Re-examining course offerings to ensure on-going viability and clarity for students
- Offering and advertising subjects on a three-year cycle rather than annually
- Developing a comprehensive research plan to provide mentorship, research development support, and opportunities for research collaboration
- Renewing faculty complement to fill in for recent retirements of internationally prominent faculty; and to ensure a rounded curriculum can be delivered with solid advisement for students

**4. Implementation Plan**

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

- Medium Term (1-2 years)
  - Developing a new curricular model; re-examining course offerings; offering and advertising subjects on a three-year cycle
    - i. The Department is developing a new curricular model that will facilitate the disciplinary study of the Humanities including philosophy, history and sociology, and interdisciplinary study and research based on the strengths of the current programs and critical and social justice perspectives; the name of the merged program has already been changed to support these refocusing efforts
    - ii. The Department will undertake further course renewal and planning to develop courses that give the program a common core and focused curriculum; a new foundation course for masters students is being offered as a special topics course this fall and will be included as a core foundation course in the program modification proposal

- iii. The Department will review all course offerings and delivery modes (including different class sizes, online delivery) to develop a three-year course calendar
  - Developing a comprehensive research plan
    - i. The Department is engaging in activities to strengthen and develop a more dynamic and productive research culture, including meetings of the Chair with individual faculty and the launch of a research mentorship program in collaboration with the Office of the Associate Dean, Research; the Dean's Office will also encourage faculty to engage with colleagues from other disciplines in research associated with the new Institute for Human Development
- Longer Term (3-5 years)
  - Renewing faculty complement
    - i. The Department will develop a five-year faculty renewal plan this fall

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 a number of faculty with strong research and publication records and the leadership of many graduates in their respective fields. Recognizing that the programs were in transition, the reviewers strongly endorsed the Department's vision of the revamped interdisciplinary structure and curriculum. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: curriculum focus; viability, availability and clarity of course-offerings; faculty research; and faculty renewal. The Department is developing a new curricular model based on the current programs' strengths and has already changed the name of the revised program to reflect this refocusing. As part of a larger process of course renewal and planning, the Department has developed a new foundation course for masters students to support a common core and focused curriculum, and is developing a three-year course calendar. The Chair is meeting with individual faculty to support research productivity, and the Department and the Office of the Associate Dean, Research are collaborating to launch a research mentorship program. The Department will develop a five-year faculty renewal plan this fall. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) requested a follow up report in two years on the new curriculum model, thesis stream student-faculty ratio, faculty research and the faculty renewal plan.