



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

<b>Program(s):</b>	Behaviour Genetics and Neurobiology, B.Sc., Hons: Specialist Exceptionality in Human Learning, B.Sc., Hons: Specialist, Major Psychology, B.Sc., Hons: Specialist, Major Forensic Psychology, B.Sc., Hons: Specialist
<b>Division/Unit:</b>	Department of Psychology, UTM
<b>Commissioning Officer:</b>	Vice Principal Academic and Dean, UTM
<b>Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):</b>	1. Dr. Martha McClintock, Professor, Institute for Mind & Biology, University of Chicago 2. Dr. Michael E. J. Masson, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria
<b>Date of review visit:</b>	January 3 and 4, 2012
<b>Date reported to AP&amp;P:</b>	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

- Integration of outstanding research programs with teaching, including research teaching at the undergraduate level
- Faculty members' exemplary ability to teach undergraduates not only empirically based causal reasoning, but also the process of laboratory research itself
- Department's grace and collegiality in handling enrolment expansion

### 3 Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Ensuring that the curriculum structure can accommodate larger enrolments
- Reviewing and revising admission requirements as planned to ensure sufficient student preparation in math and science
- Examining the adequacy of technical and administrative staffing resources to support teaching and research
- Reviewing space plans with respect to communal meeting areas and research labs that support teaching and research

### 4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
  - Examining the adequacy of technical and administrative staffing resources
    - The Dean and the Department will discuss ways to ensure adequate lab equipment and staffing resources to support teaching and research, working with human resources as necessary
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
  - Ensuring that the curriculum structure can accommodate larger enrolments
    - The Department will maintain and enhance opportunities for experiential learning and laboratory-based training for specialist students by introducing a new internship/practicum course in mental health, increasing the number of 3rd and 4th year laboratory and seminar courses, and increasing the number of students supervised in research-intensive courses
    - The Dean has asked the Department to ensure that any additional resources are allocated to equally support all program options
    - The Dean will provide TA resources and additional contract teaching support as warranted to accommodate larger enrolments
  - Reviewing space plans
    - In 2013, the Department's central administration and one of its central research groups will move to reconstructed space, providing communal space for undergraduate labs and research; the Department's space allocation will exceed U of T (COU) standards and specifications
- Longer Term (3-5 years)
  - Ensuring that the curriculum structure can accommodate larger enrolments
    - The Dean is committed to increasing complement in the Department to support coverage and quality
  - Reviewing and revising admission requirements
    - Beginning in 2014-15, the Department will require Grade 12 Biology and Advanced Functions or the equivalent; the Department will advertise these requirements widely ahead of time

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 outstanding research, the integration of research with teaching, the teaching of both causal reasoning and the process of laboratory research, and the ability to maintain academic quality during enrolment expansion. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: curriculum structure in light of large enrolments, admissions requirements, and technical, staffing and space resources that support teaching and research. The Department will maintain the high quality of the program, including its emphasis on research and experiential learning, by introducing a new internship/practicum course, increasing the number of upper-level laboratory and seminar courses, and increasing the number of students supervised in research-intensive courses. The Dean has asked the Department to ensure that resources are allocated to equally support all program options as enrolment grows, and will increase faculty complement, and provide additional TA and contract teaching resources to accommodate enrolment growth. The Department will implement new biology and math admission requirements, designed to better support student success, for the 2014-15 admissions cycle. The Dean will work with the Department to ensure that technical and staffing resources are appropriate to support teaching and research. In 2013 the Department will move to reconstructed space that exceeds COU standards and specifications and includes communal space for undergraduate labs and research. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the reviewers' recommendations.