



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

Program(s) Reviewed:	Nutritional Sciences, B.Sc., Hons.: Major (offered through the Faculty of Arts and Science) Nutritional Sciences, M.Sc., Ph.D. [Note: the Master of Public Health in Community Nutrition is jointly administered with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) and has been reviewed separately by the DLSPH.]
Division/Unit Reviewed:	Department of Nutritional Sciences
Commissioning Officer:	Dean, Faculty of Medicine
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	1. Professor Bruce German, Department of Food Science and Technology, University of California, Davis 2. Professor Benoît Lamarche, Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods (INAF), Université Laval 3. Professor Rickey Yada, Department of Food Science, University of Guelph
Date of review visit:	February 26 - 27, 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

- World-renowned reputation of programs and Department
- Undergraduate students are very well-prepared for graduate studies and professional careers
- “Stunning” graduate student scientific productivity, combined with successful decrease in time to completion
- Departmental researchers are leaders in the nutrition field, defining future directions
- Great demand for provision of teaching of nutrition across the University
- Many opportunities for joint appointments to aid in expanding Departmental mandate
- Strong faculty, student and staff morale and dedication to departmental mission and success

3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Resolving urgent space and infrastructure issues
- Enhancing the undergraduate programs through the nutrition component of the undergraduate medical education curriculum and preparation of students for careers as dietitians
- Focusing on nutrition, food and public policy areas as a path to successful knowledge translation research over the long term
- Examining how best to meet demands for teaching of nutrition across the University in a coordinated manner
- Continuing to build a sense of community among all stakeholders

4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
 - Enhancing the undergraduate programs through the nutrition component of the undergraduate medical education curriculum and preparation of students for careers as dietitians
 - The Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum Committee will examine ways of increasing teaching about nutrition as a key determinant of health in the undergraduate medical program.
 - The Department will continue to incorporate in the curriculum the relation between personalized nutrition and health improvement.
 - Focusing on nutrition, food and public policy areas as a path to successful knowledge translation research over the long term
 - The Department will consider further opportunities to collaborate with faculty in Clinical Departments.
 - The Department will explore further integration with the research priorities of fully-affiliated hospitals in the Toronto Academic Health Science Network.
 - Continuing to build a sense of community among all stakeholders

- The Department will strive to encourage greater interaction among Master of Public Health and doctoral graduate students.
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
 - Resolving urgent infrastructure issues
 - Existing space in the Fitzgerald Building will be renovated to house the remaining faculty and the new interdisciplinary Centre for Child Nutrition, Health and Development.
 - Fundraising is being conducted in support of the renovation.
 - Examining how best to meet demands for teaching of nutrition across the University in a coordinated manner
 - The Department may work with the Faculty of Arts & Science on the delivery of online courses to enhance its programs.
 - Focusing on nutrition, food and public policy areas as a path to successful knowledge translation research over the long term
 - The Department will develop a more focused strategic plan over the next two years.
 - The Department will expand its research in nutritional and related sciences through joint recruitment and cross-appointments of new faculty.
- Longer Term (3-5 years)
 - Resolving urgent infrastructure issues
 - The Department's on-campus wet lab researchers will be relocated into an updated lab space in the Tanz Building for the next 10-12 years.
 - The Dean will oversee a long-term project to relocate the Department into a new building with the other Basic Science Departments by 2024.

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

5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as their world-renowned reputation, student preparation for successful careers; graduate student scientific productivity; faculty members' leading role in nutrition research; the demand within the University for the provision of teaching of nutrition; and the strong faculty, student and staff morale. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: resolving urgent space issues; enhancing the undergraduate programs; focusing on core areas as a path to knowledge translation research over the long term; examining how to meet demands for teaching of nutrition across the University; and promoting greater interaction among students. To address space concerns, existing space will be renovated and some faculty will be relocated in the immediate term until a new, permanent space is provided in the long term. To meet demands for teaching of nutrition across the University, the Department may work with the Faculty of Arts and Science on the delivery of online courses. To continue to focus its research areas, the Department will pursue opportunities to collaborate with faculty in Clinical Departments and in fully-affiliated hospitals. The Department will develop a more focused strategic plan and expand its research in nutritional and related sciences through joint recruitment and cross-appointments of new faculty. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.