



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

Program(s):	Paramedicine, B.Sc., Hons. (Joint Program with Centennial College): Specialist
Division/Unit:	University of Toronto, Scarborough (UTSC)
Commissioning Officer:	Dean and Vice-Principal (Academic), UTSC
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr. Paula Price, Consultant, PQAPA Panel Chair2. Dr. Walt Stoy, EMT-P, Professor and Director, Emergency Medicine Program, University of Pittsburgh3. Dr. John Tallon, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P.C., Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, Dalhousie University; Vice President, Medical Programs, BC Emergency Health Services4. Michael East, EMT-P, Prehospital Healthcare Educator; Communications Director, Society for Prehospital Educators in Canada5. Dr. Jennifer McVey, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P.C., Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, Dalhousie University; Medical Director, Medavie HealthEd; Regional Medical Director, EHS Nova Scotia
Date of review visit:	May 28 and May 29, 2013
Date reported to AP&P:	April 1, 2014

1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) requested a follow-up report on the development of learning outcomes and the requirements of the Paramedicine program. The follow-up report will be considered by the AP&P at the Cycle 5 meeting in 2014-15.

2 Significant Program Strengths

- Leader in Canadian paramedic education
- Highly qualified applicants
- Use of non-academic skills as part of the admissions screening process
- Innovative assessment methods
- Outstanding teaching and research activities of faculty

3 Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Developing specific overall learning outcomes that define the unique contribution the program offers to paramedic education
- Ensuring consistency in the university and college student experience
- Providing a more flexible curriculum with additional upper-year university courses
- Strengthening a shared vision between UTSC and Centennial
- Tracking retention, graduation, and post-graduation experiences

4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
 - Developing specific overall learning outcomes
 - The Department will develop a mission statement and program objectives, together with Centennial, to provide an overarching set of learning outcomes.
 - Ensuring consistency in the university and college student experience
 - The Department will review the curriculum in consultation with Centennial.
 - UTSC advisors will strive to provide consistent messaging to students about program requirements.
 - Providing a more flexible curriculum
 - Through the curriculum review, the Department will identify ways of reducing the number of required courses, enabling students to take other upper-year courses.
 - Strengthening a shared vision between UTSC and Centennial
 - The Department will take further steps to articulate a shared vision, through the development of a mission statement and program objectives.
 - Tracking retention, graduation, and post-graduation experiences
 - The Department will work with the Registrar's Office to track student data more systematically.
 - The Department will engage the UTSC and Centennial alumni associations more effectively in maintaining contact with graduates and tracking their post-graduation activities.

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

5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as being a leader in Canadian paramedic education; highly qualified applicants; the effective admissions screening process; innovative assessment methods; and the outstanding teaching and research activities of faculty. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: developing specific overall learning outcomes; ensuring consistency in the university and college student experience; providing a more flexible curriculum; strengthening a shared vision between UTSC and Centennial; and tracking retention, graduation, and post-graduation experiences. In response, the Department, together with Centennial, will develop a mission statement and program objectives. To address consistency in the university and college student settings, the Department will review the curriculum and strengthen communication with students regarding program requirements. Through the curriculum review, the Department will also identify ways of enabling students to take more upper-year courses. The Department will continue to build on its excellent working relationships with Centennial colleagues as a means of strengthening a shared vision. In response to issues of student tracking, the Department will work with University offices to gather student data. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) requested a follow-up report on the development of learning outcomes and the requirements of the UTSC specialist program. The follow-up report will be considered by the AP&P at the Cycle 5 meeting in 2014-15.