



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

<b>Program(s) Reviewed:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Art History, B.A. (Hons.): Specialist, Major, Minor</li><li>• Art &amp; Art History, B.A. (Hons.): Specialist/ Major (joint program with Sheridan)</li><li>• Cinema Studies: Minor</li><li>• Visual Culture &amp; Communication, B.A. (Hons.): Specialist</li><li>• Visual Culture: Minor</li></ul>
<b>Division/Unit Reviewed:</b>	Department of Visual Studies, University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM)
<b>Commissioning Officer:</b>	Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean, UTM
<b>Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Professor John Osborne, Ph.D., Professor of Art History, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Carleton University</li><li>2. Professor A. Joan Saab, Associate Professor and Art History/Visual and Cultural Studies, Chair of the Department of Art and Art History, University of Rochester</li></ol>
<b>Date of Review Visit:</b>	February 25 – 26, 2016
<b>Date Reported to AP&amp;P:</b>	November 1, 2016

*Unless otherwise noted, all bulleted comments apply to all programs reviewed.*

## 1 Outcome

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The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.

## 2 Significant Program Strengths

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- Supportive, collegial department atmosphere
- Strong scholarly accomplishments of the faculty, with a high rate of success with SSHRC grants
- Well-documented and clearly communicated program learning outcomes, which include a good balance of tradition and innovation
- Art & Art History program with Sheridan has a unique balance of art history and studio art courses; expands from a traditional focus to incorporate a broader global vision
- Popular Visual Culture and Cinema Studies minors offer exciting possibilities with a strong emphasis on theoretical approaches
- Wide range of field trips, visiting speakers, and study abroad programs
- Blackwood Gallery represents an enormous advantage for the department
- Compares favourably to similar programs in the United States and the UK

## 3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

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- Addressing communication between Sheridan and the Department of Visual Studies to integrate the two experiences in students' programs of study
- Improving resources to support English language learners
- Improving classroom lighting, given the visual nature of the disciplines taught
- Expanding program offerings, including adding major options to the popular Cinema Studies and Visual Culture minors and creating a certificate in Curatorial Studies, and addressing the waning interest in the Visual Culture & Communication specialist
- Expanding the faculty complement plan to include cinema studies and Islamic art and architecture
- Addressing concerns about participation in the tri-campus graduate program
- Providing better support for the Blackwood Gallery, noting its potential for providing connections to the local community and beyond
- Strengthening the relationship with advancement to support the department's goal of creating an endowed chair

## 4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
  - Improving the communication between Sheridan and the Department of Visual Studies in order to address the perception by students of taking two programs instead of one

- The Department is offering time management workshops and offering more discussion about the nature of the different sides of the program at orientation and in classes at the beginning of each year
- The Department will do more to encourage cross-institutional faculty interaction, through meetings, social events, and special events
- Improving the resources available to support English language learners
  - The Department has received Decanal Priorities funding for their English Language Learners (ELL) Initiative. As a result, they will continue to offer optional ELL tutorials in conjunction with its core introductory courses.
- Improving classroom lighting
  - The administration has just finished refurbishing two large lecture halls for Cinema Studies courses, equipping them with appropriate sound systems, projectors, and lighting conditions
- Expansion of program offerings and creation of a certificate
  - The Department is now discussing and anticipating to develop a major in Cinema Studies. Within the Department, they are finalizing their anticipated timeline and resource requirements
  - The Department proposal for a Certificate in Curatorial Studies is currently moving through the governance process
- Providing better support for the Blackwood Gallery
  - The Blackwood's staff complement has been increased from 1.6 to 3.0 FTE, and funds have been allocated for equipment and infrastructure upgrades over the next year
- Establishing a stronger relationship with Advancement
  - Better communication has been established about funding sources, prospective donations and the like, following two meetings between the Department and Advancement
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
  - Improving classroom lighting
    - A new building under construction on campus, North2, is scheduled to open in September of 2018, and will include a large number of smaller classrooms that will have the kind of functionality needed by the Department
  - Expansion of faculty complement in areas of cinema studies and Islamic Art and Architecture
    - Increasing the faculty complement is an important priority for UTM and the Dean's Office will work with the Department to address this, given that such positions are already in their own plan
  - Participation in tri-campus graduate program
    - The Dean's Office is planning to have productive discussions with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and others related to issues of participation, inclusion and resources over the next year
- Long Term (3-6 years)

- Expansion of faculty complement in areas of cinema studies and Islamic Art and Architecture
  - Increasing the faculty complement is an important priority for UTM and the Dean’s Office will work with the Department to address this, given that such positions are already in their own plan

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

## 5 Executive Summary

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The reviewers identified the programs’ strengths as the supportive, collegial department atmosphere; strong scholarly accomplishments of the faculty, with a high rate of success with SSHRC grants; well-documented and clearly communicated program learning outcomes, which include a good balance of tradition and innovation; Art & Art History program with Sheridan with a unique balance of art history and studio art courses; popular Visual Culture and Cinema Studies minors offering exciting possibilities with a strong emphasis on theoretical approaches; wide range of field trips, visiting speakers, and study abroad programs; and the Blackwood Gallery, which represents an enormous advantage for the department. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: addressing communication between Sheridan and the Department of Visual Studies to integrate the two experiences in students’ programs of study; improving resources to support English language learners; improving classroom lighting; expanding program offerings, including adding major options to the popular Cinema Studies and Visual Culture minors and creating a certificate in Curatorial Studies, and addressing the waning interest in the Visual Culture & Communication specialist; expanding the faculty complement plan to include cinema studies and Islamic art and architecture; addressing concerns about participation in the tri-campus graduate program; providing better support for the Blackwood Gallery; and strengthening the relationship with advancement to support the department’s goal of creating an endowed chair. The Department is offering time management workshops for students and will do more to encourage cross-institutional faculty interaction. The Department has received Decanal Priorities funding for their English Language Learners (ELL) Initiative. The administration has just finished refurbishing two large lecture halls for Cinema Studies courses, equipping them with appropriate sound systems, projectors, and lighting conditions. The Department is now discussing and anticipating to develop a major in Cinema Studies, and the Department proposal for a Certificate in Curatorial Studies is currently moving through the governance process. The Blackwood’s staff complement has been increased from 1.6 to 3.0 FTE, and funds have been allocated for equipment and infrastructure upgrades over the next year. A new building under construction on campus, North2, is scheduled to open in September of 2018, and will include a large number of smaller classrooms that will have the kind of functionality needed by the Department. The Dean’s Office is planning to have productive discussions with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and others related to issues of participation, inclusion and resources over the next year. Increasing the faculty complement is an important priority for UTM and the Dean’s Office will work with the Department to address this, given that such positions are already in their own plan. The

Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.