

**OFFICE OF THE VICE -
PROVOST ACADEMIC**

931 York Research Tower
4700 KEELE ST.
TORONTO ON
CANADA M3J 1P3
T 416 650 8017
F 416 736 5876
vprovostacad.info.yorku.ca

**Undergraduate Program Review
Environmental & Health Studies, BA
Executive Summaries**

The Undergraduate Program Review (UPR) of the Bachelor of Arts degree programs in Environmental & Health Studies was conducted in April 2010. Dr. Donald A. Jackson (University of Toronto, external) and Dr. Anne Russon (Glendon College, York University, internal) were the consultants.

Following receipt of the unit and decanal responses to the consultants' report, members of the Senate Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance met with the following program/Faculty representatives on March 12, 2012 to review progress toward implementing recommendations and opportunities for program enhancement:

Kenneth McRoberts, Principal, Glendon College
Jocelyn Martel, Chair, Department of Multi-Disciplinary Studies
Radu Guiasu, Program Coordinator, Environmental & Health Studies

A series of recommendations and suggestions were made by the consultants to enhance the programs and address their specific challenges. Throughout the review process, the participation and responses of the program have been thoughtful, open and constructive. Included below is a summary of the program development considerations, initiatives and plans identified at the meetings.

Program strengths:

The program in Environmental & Health Studies continues to evolve with growing enrolments. Award winning teachers and enthusiastic students enjoy small class sizes. Two recent hires and the investment of Glendon College into the lab facilities are key reasons behind the continuing emergence of the program.

Prioritized recommendations for implementation:

The focus of the recommendations is on building the cohesiveness of the program. In response, the program will:

- articulate the required competencies in the context of the degree level expectations as well as the program learning outcomes, and map them to the requirements to foster cohesiveness and integration of the health and environment components of the program
- develop focused core and capstone requirements to enhance the program's identity and strengthen cohesiveness
- explore the option of a separate program rubric for core courses



- explore opportunities to cooperate with the Faculty of Environmental Studies and the Natural Science program on the Keele campus
- explore the possibility of enhancing experiential learning components, including with bilingual external partners (it was noted that a summer field work course could be designed and course materials could take advantage of the local environment. This might be attractive both to York and non-York students)

Rhonda Lenton, Vice-Provost Academic
November 2012