

Psychology/Psychologie, BA/iBA and BSc/iBSc, Glendon

**Cyclical Program Review – 2007 to 2014
 Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan
 Reported to Joint-Committee on Quality Assurance: December 12, 2016**

Program Description

The Psychology Program (BA) at Glendon College was established in the 1970s. The International BA (iBA) options were available in the early 1990s. The BSc and IBSc options were approved in 2015 and were not part of this review.

The Cognitive Neuropsychology Concentration coordinates applied research opportunities between Glendon students and affiliated hospitals and health centres.

Programs at Glendon are offered in both English and French, and as a trilingual option (iBA), incorporating additional language studies and an exchange.

| Psychology | Registration (new intake) 2015 | Enrolment FTES 2015 | Degrees Awarded 2015 |
|------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| BA | 153 | 354 | 37 BA; 5 minor |

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

Dr. Jane Ledingham, Professor, University of Ottawa
 Dr. Donald H. Saklofske, Professor, University of Western Ontario
 Dr. Robert Drummond, Professor, York University

Documentation Provided to the External Reviewers

Prior to the site visit, the external reviewers are provided with the following:

- Dean’s /Principal’s Agenda of Concerns
- Department/Program Omnibus Statement (where applicable)
- Program Self-Study Brief, which includes program structure, curriculum and learning outcomes, program reflection, enrolment and retention data, resources, student input and quality enhancement opportunities
- Faculty CVs
- University, Faculty and Program planning documents



Site Visit: June 14-15, 2016

The Site Visit for the cyclical review of Psychology programs at York University included the graduate program and the undergraduate programs that are offered through the Faculty of Health on the Keele campus and York's bilingual campus, Glendon College. The reviewers met with the following academic administrators: Alice Pitt, Vice Provost Academic; Harvey Skinner, Dean, and Susan Murtha, Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning, Faculty of Health; Barbara Crow, Dean and Associate Vice-President, Faculty of Graduate Studies; Donald Ipperciel, Principal, and Timothy Moore, Chair, Department of Psychology, Glendon College; Joel Goldberg, Chair, Jennifer Connolly, Undergraduate Psychology Program Director, Jennifer Steele, Associate Undergraduate Psychology Program Director, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health; and Adrienne Perry, Graduate Psychology Program Director, Keele Campus. The reviewers had the opportunity to meet with university librarians, full-time undergraduate and graduate faculty members, part-time faculty members, the York University Psychology Clinic Director, the Master of Calumet College, undergraduate students and graduate students on the Keele campus and undergraduate students at Glendon.

In the Review Report, the reviewers stated that they were impressed with the openness and willingness of participants to share viewpoints, issues, concerns, and recommendations from faculty, students and staff members.

Outcome:

The Joint-Committee on Quality Assurance met with representatives from the Psychology Department and with the Principal on January 26, 2017. The Committee concluded that the Principal's response and the decanal Implementation Plan addressed the review recommendations. Progress on the implementation plan will be included in the Follow-up Report due June 2018. The next CPR will begin in the Fall of 2022 and will include the recently-approved BSc degree options.

Strengths:

The reviewers commented on the rigour of the self-study documents and noted the following strengths, among others, in their report:

- The commitment to a scientifically grounded psychology program that provides research, foundational, and practice focused programs gives York University an edge over more limited programs or those that are directed at other areas of psychology, especially at the graduate level.
- The reviewers found the courses, programs and their objectives to be both contemporary and dynamic.
- It was noted on both campuses that "the faculty take very seriously what they teach, how they teach it, and who their 'audience' is".
- Program structures map well onto learning objectives.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

The Review Report provided a fulsome and robust discussion of the materials included in the self-study, the Principal's agenda of concerns, and the challenges and issues that were raised during the site visit.

The reviewers made a number of recommendations for the Psychology programs. Particular recommendations that were relevant to Glendon are listed below.

- The program should engage in succession planning for key administrators
- Plans should be formulated for replacements for retiring faculty (both campuses).
- Opportunities for expanding the provision of French Language programs in the GTA should be explored. For example, there is the potential that MA program offered in French could receive special funding support by federal and/or provincial governments.
- Some courses on each campus have very low enrolments, including upper year courses at Glendon. It is noted that some of these 4th year courses are small by design; however, courses with low enrolments should be monitored.
- Students expressed a desire for more upper year courses to be taught in French.

Implementation Plan

The Principal's Implementation plan focused on three priorities.

Two of these were explicit recommendations stated by the reviewers; the third rose from a challenge raised indirectly in the report.

| Implementation Priority | Responsible unit | Begin Date | End Date |
|---|---|------------|-----------|
| Engage in succession planning for key administrators | Program | 1-Jan-17 | 30-May-17 |
| Prioritize areas of research for replacement positions for retiring faculty members | Program | 1-Jan-17 | 30-May-17 |
| Offer more French-language courses at the 3000- and 4000 level | Program (dependent also on the Office of the Principal) | 1-Sep-17 | 1-Sep-18 |

Members of the Joint Sub-Committee welcomed the opportunity to meet with members of the Psychology Department and the Principal and were impressed with the strong commitment to excellence in their program, extensive experiential learning opportunities and the deliberate focus on contemporary issues, for example the challenges of our aging population. There was acknowledgement that it is essential to ensure the provision of upper year courses in French and recent hires in the Department contribute to the capacity. The program is encouraged to explore the use of technology in collaboration with Health Psychology in order to provide all students with more choices of upper year courses and to work closely with the Glendon experiential co-ordinator to support and expand its excellent opportunities. A brief discussion of the Bachelor of Science option highlighted the need for future development of or access to science

breadth courses, in particular for Chemistry.

A report on the progress of the initiatives identified in the Principal's Plan will be provided in the Follow-up Report, due in June 2018.

Alice J. Pitt
Vice-Provost Academic
York University