

**York University**

Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

# **HEALTH & SOCIETY**

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

**Health & Society Undergraduate Program, Department of Social Science**

**Cyclical Program Review – 2008 to 2015**

This Final Assessment Report (FAR) provides a synthesis of the cyclical review of the programs listed below.

### **Program(s) Reviewed**

Honours BA in Health & Society  
Honours Double Major BA in Health & Society  
Honours (Double Major) Interdisciplinary BA in Health & Society  
Honours (Major/Minor) BA in Health &  
Society Honours (Minor) BA in Health &  
Society Ordinary BA in Health & Society

### **Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:**

Dr. Olena Hankivsky, Professor, School of Public Policy, Simon Fraser  
University Dr. David Wilson, Professor, Geography and Geography Information,  
University of Illinois Champaign  
Dr. Robert Drummond, Professor, Political Science, York University

### **Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones**

Cyclical Program Review Launch: September 2015  
Self-study submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: August 19, 2016  
Date of the Site Visit: October 20, 2016  
Review Report received: January 17, 2017  
Program Response received: April 25, 2017  
Dean's Response received: May 2018

Implementation Plan and FAR confirmed by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality  
Assurance, May 2018

Submitted by Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic, York University



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*This review was conducted under the York University Quality Assurance Protocol, August 2013.*

**Outcome:**

An implementation plan has been approved that addresses the recommendations. The Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance concurred with the recommendation of the Vice-Provost Academic that a post-CPR review involving the Department of Social Science is required in light of the departmental omnibus statement and the Dean's statement on departmental challenges. The outcomes of this departmental review, which will be undertaken collaboratively with the Office of the Vice-Provost, the Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies and the Department, will form part of the 18 month program Follow-up Report for Health and Society as well as other programs housed in the Department. The Follow-up Report will provide an update on specific aspects of the implementation plan resulting from the cyclical program review as well as any further recommendations or action plans made in consideration of the Departmental Review.

The Follow-up Report will be due 18 months after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance (January 2020).

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2023 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2024 or Winter of 2025.

**Program Description and Strengths:**

The Review Report makes the following observation about the Health and Society program, which has been a free standing program at York since 2001, "The objectives of the Health and Society Program (HESO), with their focus on social justice, transformational change and community engagement align with the general mission of York University as well as the interdisciplinary research and teaching thrust of the Department of Social Science within the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. Specifically, the Program seeks to train students to see health as it is connected to a wide set of questions that engage social, cultural, political and moral aspects of human experience in local and global contexts and to provide students with the practical experience to apply such critical skills and knowledge to real world situations and challenges."

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**Recommendation 1:** Follow the recommendations of the self-study and proceed with the hiring of the four targeted positions identified as areas of priority and growth for HESO.

One new faculty member will join the Department July 1, 2018. The program will develop its priorities in response to the annual call for complement planning with rationales based on enrolment and recruitment patterns, curricular innovation, collaboration, and curricular clarity. The program's articulation of its priorities will be included in the Department of Social Science's submission to the Dean's Office.

**Recommendation 2:** If the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies is not able to move forward immediately with new hiring, as proposed by the self-study, it is recommended that the Program be moved to the Faculty of Health, as opposed to History or Anthropology.

No action required: the program is encouraged to identify synergies within the Faculty of Health.

**Recommendation 3:** We recommend that the faculty review the number of degrees that are currently, and in particular whether an Honours (Minor BA) or 90-credit BA Program are a value added for students interested in the study of health and society.

The program will review enrolment patterns and address low enrolments in the Honours (Minor) BA with a view to closing this option or developing a plan to increase enrolments. The BA will continue.

September 2018, the program will submit paperwork to approve program closure or a plan for increasing enrolments to the Dean's Office.

**Recommendation 4:** Co-ordinate with other programs to develop cross-listed courses, particularly in the area of research methods.

In addition to pruning courses from the curriculum, the program will consult with other programs, including those housed in other Departments (e.g. Anthropology, History, Sociology) to work towards some new curricular offerings that meet multiple program outcomes and can contribute meaningfully to the assessment of learning outcomes across programs.

Fall 2018 with facilitation by the Dean's Office

**Recommendation 5:** Recommended courses on the books need to be reviewed to ensure that they reflect the reality of what is actually available to students. HESO should also develop a plan for collective implementation for community-based assignments, group problem-solving, and problem-based learning, to ensure that the curriculum is meaningful, innovative, and integrated.

See also Recommendation 4. The program will continue its review of recommended courses and the development of a curriculum map and pathways for graduation for HESO students to be posted on the website.

Fall 2018

**Recommendation 6:** More resources should be dedicated to developing experiential learning opportunities and placements of students within NGOs,

government agencies and other health sector organizations in which they can apply their knowledge and critical thinking skills and gain experience necessary for employment....

See also Recommendation 4. Program to develop collaborative curricular opportunities for experiential education with other Departments and programs.

Ongoing

**Recommendation 7:** Similar to the Urban Studies, HESO needs to improve the selection and preparation of TAs for its Program.

The Dean's Office will work with the program to identify opportunities to support the pedagogical development of TAs.

Ongoing

**Recommendation 8:** The Faculty and Department of Social Science would be well advised to dedicate more resources for HESO's Student Association to support its activities.

No action required