

April 17, 2025

Professor Nicholas Rule
Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
Division of the Vice-President & Provost
University of Toronto

Interim Monitoring Report: 2019-20 UTQAP Review of the Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences and its Programs

Dear Professor Rule,

Thank you for your office's letter of July 10, 2024, requesting our interim monitoring report for the 2019-20 UTQAP review of the Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences and its programs, and the administrative response to the review, which were presented to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) on October 27, 2020.

The status of the implementation of plans outlined in the Dean's administrative response:

I am pleased to report that progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations from the review, and new initiatives have been undertaken, as described below.

| Action | Timeline | Status as of April 2025 |
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| Introduce and implement changes to the admissions process (for Fall 2021) | Short term (6 months to 1 year) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UTSC implemented a new admissions process in Fall 2021, impacting enrolment starting Spring/Summer 2022. This resulted in the creation of new admissions categories for Computer Science, Mathematics, and Statistics. Students admitted from high school to each of these categories are now admitted to the corresponding program, provided they achieve a minimum grade in selected courses. This minimum grade is lower than the criteria in place before 2021. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additionally, students who are not initially admitted to the Computer Science category have the opportunity to apply for Computer Science programs after completing their first-year courses. Although this route is competitive and more challenging, the changes have helped to reduce uncertainty and mitigate the stress experienced by prospective and current students. |
| Complete faculty searches and appoint new faculty | Medium- to long-term (1 to 5 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the Department's last review in 2019-20, it has secured at least 10 continuing hires: at least 4 in Computer Science, 5 in Mathematics, and 1 in Statistics. Of these hires, 4 are replacements, and 6 are net new. There are 6 searches currently underway in 2024-25. The consultation process regarding filling outstanding faculty hires has shifted from the previous workings of the Faculty Complement Committee. The Vice-Dean of Faculty Affairs, Equity, and Success has presented the 2025-26 search plan to chairs for comment. We are now receiving comments and will present the finalized plan at an April meeting of the Chairs Council. |
| Review and prioritize administrative staff needs; when appropriate, hire additional administrative staff support | Medium- to long-term (1 to 5 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the Department's last cyclical review, the role of Associate Chair for Mathematics and Statistics has been split into two separate positions to better oversee issues related to teaching and other matters specific to each discipline. Additionally, new staff have been hired to support the growing needs of the Department, including one Undergraduate Assistant (which is repurposed to Instructional Support Assistant) and one Instructional Support Assistant. Their work eases the administrative workload from the faculty who enhances pedagogy and teaching and learning. Prior to external review |

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| | | <p>recommendations, due to ongoing staff shortages, one Finance Assistant and one Academic Program Advisor were posted in 2019 and hired in March 2020 and January 2021, respectively. Similarly, one Manager of Operations & Finance was hired in November 2021 to better support and manage departmental operations and initiatives. Last but not least, one Marketing and Engagement Specialist was hired in February 2025 to improve communications and student/community engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the completion of the state-of-the-art Sam Ibrahim Building (formerly known as Instructional Centre 2) in 2024, Computer and Mathematical Sciences faculty and staff began occupying offices on the third and fourth floors of the building as of Fall 2024. |
| Conduct an assessment of career outcomes for students who complete the department's Co-op programs versus those who do not | Medium-term (1 to 2 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement on this recommendation was delayed by the pandemic. In its initial assessment, the Dean's Office has also determined that this is an area that would benefit from being addressed across the university as well as divisionally and departmentally. There is a notable absence of data that tracks career-related progress of graduates, though this is an area that is repeatedly flagged in external review processes. Given the growing importance of experiential learning as a part of SMA mandates and the role of co-op as a distinct example of this, UTSC is keen to contribute to efforts to enhance these measures at the University of Toronto. |
| Develop new upper-level courses in Statistics, in support of the introduction of a proposed new | Short- to medium term (6 months to 2 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though the Comprehensive Stream of the Specialist in Statistics did not materialize, the Department introduced two new upper-level courses in 2023 for students pursuing programs |

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| <p>“Comprehensive” stream in the Specialist in Statistics (for Fall 2021)</p> | | <p>in Statistics: STAD81H3: Causal Inference and STAD91H3: Topics in Statistics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAD81H3 serves to bridge a curriculum gap for students enrolled in Major and Specialist programs in Statistics, while STAD91H3 allows Statistics faculty to offer advanced topics of current interest or related to their research. Additionally, STAD91H3 enables the department to trial new offerings for fine-tuning new course proposals. |
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The status of any additional items discussed at the AP&P meeting as captured in the FAR/IP:

Not applicable as the Reading Group agreed that the Dean’s administrative response from September 21, 2020 had fully addressed the issues identified.

The status of any projects supported by “Program Innovation Funding” provided by the VPAP:

Not applicable.

Findings of assessments of program effectiveness, conducted as outlined in the self-study:

Not applicable.

This interim monitoring report was developed in consultation with the Chair of the Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences, the Director of the Arts & Science Co-op Office, as well as relevant colleagues within my office. The Dean’s Office has monitored the implementation of review recommendations through ongoing meetings with the Chair of the Department.

Sincerely,



Professor Karin Ruhlandt
Vice-Principal Academic & Dean

Cc: James Bremer, Chair, Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences