



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

<b>Program(s):</b>	Caribbean Studies (Honours BA: Specialist, Major; Minor) Review of program only (program housed in New College)
<b>Division/Unit:</b>	Faculty of Arts & Science
<b>Commissioning Officer:</b>	Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
<b>Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):</b>	1. Dr. C. Rhonda Cobham-Sander, Professor of Black Studies and English, Amherst College, United States 2. Dr. Holger Henke, Assistant Provost, York College, City University of New York (CUNY), United States
<b>Date of review visit:</b>	January 27, 2012
<b>Date reported to AP&amp;P:</b>	April 16, 2013

## 1 Outcome

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

## 2 Significant Program Strengths

- Rich educational environment for students supporting critical and creative thinking, knowledge integration and global citizenship
- Accessible and supportive faculty
- Highly engaged students
- Innovative mentorship of first-generation students to improve their basic academic skills and help them connect their lived experience with their academic interests
- Strong community profile and outreach activities

### 3 Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Increasing the program's social science component to provide a greater diversity of disciplinary approaches
- Increasing and stabilizing course offerings to improve student access to courses and support growth in program enrolment
- Developing an elective second language component to support multilingual Caribbean Studies and extend students' understanding of global citizenship
- Increasing and regularly updating the Program's web presence and marketing to recruit students to the program and the University
- Including comprehensive or capstone courses to allow students to demonstrate achievement of program objectives

### 4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
  - Increasing the social science component and the number of courses
    - The Caribbean Studies Advisory Board undertook a major restructuring of the program's required, core and cross-listed courses, making scheduling easier for students
    - The Program's Advisory Board approved a social and environmental science course with Latin American Studies, and the Director will bring further options to the Advisory Board in Fall 2013
    - In support of the program, New College is covering the cost of a new 0.5 FCE course
    - The Program has negotiated a 1 FCE per year of a CLTA position shared with the Department of History for the next five years, which will enable the Program to mount 1 full FCE of new courses in 2013
  - Developing a second language component
    - The Director is seeking priority enrolment for Caribbean Studies Majors in relevant language courses, which could result in the addition of a 1 FCE foreign language requirement in French or Spanish to the Caribbean Studies Major and Specialist
  - Demonstrating achievement of program objectives through capstone courses
    - The Program will introduce several new capstone courses in 2013
  - Updating web presence
    - The Program Director has initiated more regular updates to the program's website
    - Working with New College Advancement and IT, the Program will update its alumni database and feature profiles of alumni on its website
- Medium Term (1-2 years) and Longer Term (3-5 years)
  - Increasing the number of courses
    - Working with the Faculty, the Program will explore ways to take greater advantage of the expertise of Caribbeanists in other units
  - Developing a second language component

- The Chairs of the Departments of French and Spanish & Portuguese will open up spaces in their required language courses for Caribbean Studies students. The Dean's office will provide half of the required additional TA funding (70 hours) on a two year pilot basis for 2014-16. At the end of this period, the Dean's office, New College and Caribbean Studies will evaluate the success of the language requirement and funding needs.
- Demonstrating achievement of program objectives through capstone courses
  - The Program will explore the possibility of partnering with other units to get priority access to relevant courses for Caribbean Studies students. There many 400-level courses offered in other units that would help establish 'learning pathways'.

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

## 5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the program's strengths as engaged faculty and students; support for development of critical thinking, knowledge integration and global citizenship; mentorship of first-generation students; and community outreach. The reviewers recommended that the program consider issues around the diversity of disciplinary approaches, accessibility of course offerings, second language acquisition and student recruitment. The Program will add new social science courses and capstone course for 2013-14, and it is working to gain priority access for Caribbean Studies students to courses in other units, as well as the cross-listing of more courses. The Program has secured space for students in French and Spanish language courses, along with funding from the Dean's Office for half of the required additional TA support. The Program is also making regular updates to its website and expanding its database of alumni. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the reviewers' recommendations.