



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

<b>Program(s):</b>	Sociology, B.A., Hons.: Specialist, Major, Minor Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies, B.A., Hons.: Specialist, Major
<b>Division/Unit:</b>	Department of Sociology, University of Toronto Mississauga
<b>Commissioning Officer:</b>	Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean
<b>Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):</b>	1. Dr. Carroll Seron, Department Chair and Professor of Criminology, Law & Society and Sociology of Law, Department of Criminology, Law & Society and Sociology of Law, University of California Irvine 2. Dr. Michael Smith, James McGill Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, McGill University
<b>Date of review visit:</b>	February 4-5, 2014
<b>Date reported to AP&amp;P:</b>	October 28, 2014

## 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

- Current curriculum
- Students are positive about their experiences in the Department
- Productive, energetic faculty with impressive research profiles
- Deep faculty commitment to delivering a first-rate educational experience for both graduate and undergraduate students

### 3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Engaging in critical evaluation of the curriculum to address redundancy in course content
- Analyzing factors influencing program graduation and retention rates
- Examining possible tension between continued enrolment growth and overall program quality
- Developing a hiring plan that balances undergraduate program needs with tri-campus graduate priorities
- Enhancing the program's location at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) campus as a locus for faculty and graduate students

### 4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
  - Engaging in critical evaluation of the curriculum
    - The Department's Faculty Advisor will coordinate course content in the Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies programs, working with faculty to reduce any overlap.
  - Analyzing factors influencing program graduation and retention rates
    - The Dean's Office is providing transition programs and altering registration practices in order to support students in graduating in a timely manner.
    - The Department has increased the number of courses, spaces in courses, and faculty hires in order to meet student demand.
  - Examining possible tension between continued enrolment growth and program quality
    - Faculty members have responded to increased student demand for courses, teaching courses with high enrolment and offering multiple sections of required courses.
    - The Dean has supported the Department in efforts to increase the faculty complement.
    - The Department will reassess use of teaching assistant resources in order to better meet student needs and support writing intensive courses.
  - Developing a hiring plan that balances undergraduate program needs with tri-campus graduate priorities
    - The Department has recently hired two lecturers in response to undergraduate program needs.
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
  - Enhancing the program's location at the UTM campus
    - The Department will provide dedicated space for graduate students in a new location in 2017.
    - The Dean will continue to support the Department in its efforts to integrate graduate students into campus life.

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

## 5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as students' positive attitude about their experiences in the Department; energetic faculty with an impressive research profile; and deep faculty commitment to delivering a first-rate educational experience for students. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: engaging in critical evaluation of the curriculum; analyzing factors influencing program graduation and retention rates; examining possible tension between continued enrolment growth and overall program quality; and enhancing the program's location at the UTM campus as a locus for faculty and graduate students. In response, the Department's Faculty Advisor will coordinate course content to reduce overlap. To support students in graduating in a timely manner, the Dean's Office will employ refined recruitment and retention strategies. To address enrolment growth and program quality, the Department is accommodating increased numbers of students in courses and will reassess use of teaching assistant resources. The Department has recently hired two lecturers in response to undergraduate program needs and will provide dedicated space for graduate students in the future. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.