

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON
QUALITY ASSURANCE**
Cyclical Review of the undergraduate and graduate programs in Political Science
Executive Summary

This Executive Summary and Final Assessment Report of the cyclical review of Carleton's graduate programs are provided pursuant to the provincial Quality Assurance Framework and Carleton's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The undergraduate and graduate programs in Political Science reside in the Department of Political Science, a unit administered by the Faculty of Public Affairs.

As a consequence of the review, the programs were categorised by the Carleton University Committee on Quality Assurance (CUCQA) as being of **GOOD QUALITY** (Carleton's IQAP 7.2.12).

The External Reviewers' report offered a very positive assessment of the programs. Within the context of this positive assessment, the report nonetheless made a number of recommendations for the continuing enhancement of the programs. These recommendations were productively addressed by the Chair of the Department of Political Science, the Dean of the Faculty of Public Affairs and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs in a response to the External Reviewers' report that was submitted to CUCQA on February 27, 2019.

An Action Plan detailing how, when and by whom the recommendations will be implemented was received and approved by CUCQA on February 27, 2019.

**Cyclical Program Review Action Plan
For the Department of Political Science**

DATE: 30 January 2019
 TO: Office of the Vice Provost, Tiffany Douglas, Program Review Officer
 FROM: Elinor Sloan, Chair, Department of Political Science
 APPROVALS: Andre Plourde, Dean FPA, 25 January 2019
 James Opp, Associate Dean (Programs), FGPA, 29 January 2019

The Department of Political Science is pleased to present its action plan in response to the External Reviewers' report, the departmental response, and CUCQA's memo of February 1, 2018. We apologize for the delay. This response was prepared by Jonathan Malloy, past-Chair of the Department of Political Science, and revised by Elinor Sloan, Chair of Political Science in consultation with David Mendeloff, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Public Affairs. The Department appreciates the valuable input from the reviewers and takes all the recommendations seriously.

CUCQA has additionally requested "that the Action Plan include clarification on course requirements for students admitted to the Ph.D. after completing the M.A., where the student has taken Ph.D. courses during their M.A. program. In these cases, are the courses double counted, repeated, and/or replaced?"

Departmental Answer: This situation rarely or never arises as M.A. students are strongly discouraged from taking 6xxx level PhD courses, which are all tied to the comprehensive exams or dissertation. The program does not double count credit.

Recommendation from External Reviewers	Responsible Actors	Action/Response	Timeline
<p>1. <i>Encourage more engagement with seminars and Departmental events</i></p>	<p>Department Chair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department's physical facilities for social interaction and intellectual community have improved significantly in the past two years with a now fully operating lounge for faculty, staff and graduate students; a new graduate student reading room; and conversion of our meeting room to an electronic facility to encourage and facilitate remote participation. • A new discussion series for both faculty and graduate students on "Classics of Social Sciences" is in its 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing

		second year and has been very successful.	
2. <i>Development of course offerings in indigenous and aboriginal politics</i>	Department Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department will be seeking permission to offer a 0.5 FYSM on Canadian Indigenous Relations in winter term 2020 (no additional resources required). CI identified. The Department will be creating a 3000-level course called "Global Indigenous Politics" in the 2020/21 cycle to be offered by a faculty member in the academic year 2021/22 (Gopika Solanki). Colleagues are being strongly encouraged to integrate Indigenous Learning Bundles into their courses in 2019/20. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic year 2019/20 Academic year 2020/21 Academic year 2021/22
3. <i>Training for contract instructors, especially with regard to students with severe personal issues, including mental health</i>	Department Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The instructor manual and quick reference site for instructors on the Department of Political Science website have been updated to provide instructors with information on how to assist students and on the (substantial) university resources available to students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed December 2018
4. <i>Review commitment to quantitative methods instruction.</i>	Department Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As noted in our response to the reviewers' report, we believe our current model is appropriate. This recommendation speaks to broader debates in the discipline of political science about the balance between methodological approaches. We believe that the Department's current balanced approach 	n/a

		is highly consistent with Canadian norms.	
5. <i>Hiring of a tenure track replacement in political theory;</i>	Department Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring was completed in 2017-18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed 2017-18
6. <i>Concrete acknowledgement of work ["financial or through course abatement"] done by principal supervisors on undergraduate and graduate theses (especially for supervision in interdisciplinary programs);</i>	Department Chair/Dean FPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting with the May 2019 CDI submissions, faculty will be required to highlight their supervisions for the previous year. At the May departmental retreat the chair will start a conversation with faculty on how to concretely account for supervisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 2019 onward
7. <i>Improving and encouraging international recruitment.</i>	Department Chair/FGPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary factor identified here is funding, and the Department welcomes the recent work of FGPA in improving funding packages for international graduate students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
8. <i>Address the problem of falling enrolments in the BA Political Science programs;</i>	Department Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a perpetual issue that the Department continues to monitor, with competition among other similar Carleton programs (e.g. BPAPM, BGIInS*, etc.) being an important factor. BA enrolments stayed steady for fall 2018. In 2017-18 the Department introduced two new 1000 level courses to attract more non-PSCI majors and encourage interest in PSCI programs. <p>* Political Science enrolments include the Global Politics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring is ongoing New courses introduced in 2017-18.

		specialization within the BGIInS program; this is outside the BA program and the recommendation's focus.	
9. <i>Enter into a dialogue between the Department, Faculty and students on 4th year courses;</i>	Department Chair, Department Curriculum Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will initiate a consultation with faculty, EDC and ODFPA to determine how best to address the problem of access to 4000 level courses, with an expectation to have a solution in place by Fall 2019 for implementation in 2020-21. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2019/20
10. <i>Promote conversations across subfields on expectations and workloads in courses.</i>	Departmental Teaching Mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Departmental Teaching Mentor will be encouraged to include this sort of conversation as one of the initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
11. <i>Look into offering more at the MA level on Canadian aboriginal studies;</i>	Department Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of programming at the MA level is not foreseeable with current resources, and would need to be coordinated with other Carleton programs, especially in Indigenous and Canadian Studies and the School of Public Policy and Administration. This recommendation appears to contradict #12 below. 	n/a
12. <i>Move resources from MA teaching to BA and PhD teaching;</i>	Department Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations #12, #14, and #15 suggest a significant reorganization of the department's graduate programming for reasons that are not clear, especially as the reviewers also state, specifically referring to the PhD program, that "<i>With respect to coursework, the</i> 	n/a

		<p><i>Departmental requirements are roughly comparable to other, similar doctoral programs in Canada.” and “[t]he structure and content of the program conform to what has become the standard model within Canadian Political Science.”</i></p> <p>The reviewers do not identify specific aberrations, overlaps or deficiencies, or any other issues that would warrant a major rethinking and upheaval of current programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department does reiterate its commitment to continuous improvement and rethinking its curricular models outside the cyclical review process, including its graduate programs. For example, in 2010 we moved our PhD core courses to a biennial basis in response to student requests and to create a better learning experience; in 2011-12 we undertook for our own purposes a major benchmarking review of our MA program; and in 2014 we introduced a new Gender and Diversity field. 	
13. <i>More communication to MA students on program expectations;</i>	Graduate Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department plans to begin a regular “reorientation” seminar in the winter term to follow up on the fall orientation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter 2019 and onward
14. <i>Reducing core course load on the PhD;</i>		See #12 above	n/a

<p>15. <i>Offering core PhD courses on an annual, rather than biennial, basis;</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2010, we began rotating our six core courses, three every year, to increase class sizes and to free up resources for other parts of the program. We will continue this approach with the exception of the International Relations core course, which is too large to offer every other year. The department is considering offering that course on an annual basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing, to be decided for the 2021/22 academic year
<p>16. <i>Assign each incoming PhD student with a faculty mentor;</i></p>	<p>Graduate Supervisor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The graduate supervisor will work with students to provide them with suggestions on who to approach as a supervisor. • When making PhD offers the graduate committee considers whether or not there is a faculty member who could reasonably be expected to supervise the student, based on expertise (i.e. sometimes not an exact match, but a "close enough" match) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
<p>17. <i>Rationalization of PhD office space.</i></p>	<p>Department Chair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report speaks more broadly to space for "graduate students" in general. The Department has created a new graduate quiet-space reading room that provides suitable space for students without assigned office space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed summer 2018