

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

Program(s):	Journalism, B.A., Hons. (Joint Program with Centennial College): Specialist
Division/Unit:	University of Toronto, Scarborough (UTSC)
Commissioning Officer:	Dean and Vice-Principal (Academic), UTSC
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	1. Dr. Paula Price, Consultant, PQAPA Panel Chair 2. Janet Kolodzy, M.S.J., Associate Professor, Journalism Department, Emerson College 3. Dr. Christopher Waddell, Associate Professor; Director, School of Journalism and Communication; Carty Chair in Business and Financial Journalism, Carleton University 4. Rick MacLean, M.A., Instructor, Journalism Program, Holland College 5. Larry Cornies, M.A., Coordinator, Print Journalism and Broadcast Journalism Programs, Conestoga College
Date of review visit:	May 30 and May 31, 2013
Date reported to AP&P:	April 1, 2014

1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) requested a follow-up report on the development of learning outcomes for the program. The follow-up report will be considered by the AP&P at the Cycle 5 meeting in 2014-15.

2 Significant Program Strengths

- State-of-the-art curriculum
- Innovative, creative approaches to course design and delivery

- Integrated program model offering both a university degree and applied practice

3 Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Developing specific overall learning outcomes
- Ensuring consistency in both the university and college student experience
- Increasing the number of higher-level university courses
- Strengthening a shared vision between UTSC and Centennial
- Tracking retention, graduation, and post-graduation experiences

4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
 - o Developing specific overall learning outcomes
 - The Department will develop a mission statement and program objectives that will lead to the program's learning outcomes.
 - The Department will develop closely aligned learning outcomes for the UTSC and Centennial components of the program.
 - o Ensuring consistency in both the university and college student experience
 - The Department will review the program in consultation with Centennial and will present the outcome to the Joint Program Steering Committee.
 - The Department will work to ensure consistent messaging of program requirements and provision of student program counselling.
 - o Increasing the number of higher-level university courses
 - The Department will offer an annual fourth-year seminar in journalism, enabling students to meet program requirements.
 - The Department will assist students in planning for fourth-year courses through program counselling in second and third years.
 - The Department will hire a new faculty member in Journalism.
 - o Strengthening a shared vision between UTSC and Centennial
 - The Department will take specific actions to foster and articulate a shared vision with Centennial.
 - The Department will continue to support the productive working relationship between the UTSC and Centennial program coordinators.
 - o Tracking retention, graduation, and post-graduation experiences
 - The Department will work with the Registrar's Office to track student retention more systematically.
 - The Department plans to engage the UTSC and Centennial alumni associations more effectively in maintaining contact with graduates and tracking their post-graduation activities.

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 state-of-the-art curriculum; innovative approaches to course design and delivery; and an integrated program model providing both a university degree and applied practice. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: developing specific overall learning outcomes; ensuring consistency in both the university and college student experience; increasing the number of higher-level university courses; strengthening a shared vision between UTSC and Centennial; and tracking retention, graduation, and post-graduation experiences. To address the need for specific overall learning outcomes, the Department will develop a mission statement and program objectives that will lead to the program's learning outcomes. The Department will review the program curriculum and ensure consistent messaging of program requirements to manage student expectations. The Department will assist students in accessing fourth-year courses through program counselling. The Department will take specific actions to foster and articulate a shared vision with Centennial, and it will work with UTSC Offices to strengthen tracking of student retention and post-graduation activities. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) requested a follow-up report on the development of learning outcomes for the program. The follow-up report will be considered by the AP&P at the Cycle 5 meeting in 2014-15.