

Final Assessment Report

Classics

Graduate and Undergraduate Programs (reviewed 2017/18)

A. Summary

1. The Department's Self Study was considered and approved by the Senate Academic Review Committee on January 30, 2018.
2. The Review Committee consisted of two external reviewers: Barbara Reeves (Queen's University) and Michael Fronda (McGill University) and an internal reviewer, David Fennell (Brock University).
3. The site visit occurred on February 28 - March 2, 2018.
4. The Reviewers' Report was received on March 23, 2018.
5. The Senate Graduate Studies Committee response was received on Apr 30, 2018
6. The Department's response was received on May 8, 2018.
7. The Senate Undergraduate Program Committee response was received on May 8, 2018.
8. The Dean of Graduate Studies response from Diane Dupont was received on May 10, 2018.
9. The Dean of Humanities response from Carol Merriam was received on June 1, 2018

This review was conducted under the terms and conditions of the IQAP approved by Senate on May 25, 2016.

The academic programs offered by the Department of Classics which were examined and rated as part of the review were:

Program(s)	Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Good Quality with Concerns	Non-Viable
BA (Honours) Classics			X	
BA with Major Classics			X	
BA (Pass) Classics			X	
Minor in Classics			X	
MA Classics		X		

B. Strengths of the Program

The reviewers identified the following:

The greatest strength of the programs (graduate and undergraduate) is the excellent complement of dedicated, highly qualified and skilled instructors (including both full-time and part-time instructors). The instructors, especially the full-time teaching staff, are accomplished teachers while maintaining active research agendas. Many full-time instructors are leading experts in their fields, recognized both nationally and internationally; other (junior scholars) are on track to become so. They have a demonstrated an excellent success rate in obtaining grants (which not only further their own research but are used to help fund graduate students). Several members of the program actively contribute to the field through active participation and holding leadership positions in learned societies, editorial boards of academic journal, etc. (e.g. Glazebrook is VP of the Classical Association of Canada).

The teaching staff attempts, and for the most part achieves, to offer a full range of challenging courses at both the undergraduate and MA level in classical languages, archaeology, history and literature in translation, which provide students a solid, interdisciplinary foundation in classical studies as well as equipping them with transferrable skills (e.g. critical thinking and analysis, written and oral communication). A particular curricular strength is the program's emphasis on experiential learning, highlighted by the opportunity for students to participate in four active, overseas archeological field projects as well as a biennial study tour of sites in the Mediterranean. More generally, the most distinctive feature of Brock's Classics programs is its focus on and expertise in material culture and social history of ancient Greece and Rome. This emphasis is very much the "brand" of Classics at Brock, and distinguishes the program from other comparably sized peer programs in Canada.

The students, themselves, are another strength. As one often finds in Classics, program students are enthusiastic about Classics, not only concerning themselves with fulfilling program requirements but also devoting their energies to a variety of extracurricular activities related to Classics. The Brock University Archaeology Society, in continuous operation for nearly 30 years, is very active (including hosting a biennial conference with invited keynote speaker), and is indicative of the healthy and avid student community.

The department is fortunate to provide very good workrooms and offices for students, which contribute to the strong sense of shared community among students and between students and professors. These student workspaces include separate spaces for teaching assistants, undergraduate peer advisors, and the Brock University Archaeological Society. The department also houses a reading room/library with a full Loeb Classical Library and two computer work stations, used primarily by graduate students, an archaeology lab and small storeroom for antiquities (a fine study collection of mostly Cypriote artifacts), display cases (which allow for rotating displays from the department's study collections of antiquities), and a graduate lounge. The department's physical layout was purposely designed when the department moved into the (then) newly built International Centre in order to suit departmental and program needs. In general, space is a considerable asset for the program.

C. Opportunities for Improvement and Enhancement

Recommendation #1

The department should reduce Honours streams from four to two by retaining the Classical Civilization stream and folding the Classical Languages Stream and the Classical Art and Archaeology Stream into the more flexible Classical Studies Stream.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We believe this recommendation is worth serious consideration and it has already been discussed at a recent departmental retreat.
- An Academic Program Committee has been formed to address the issue and to formulate ideas on how such a dual stream program would look.

The Faculty Dean stated that:

The Dean supports regular review of curriculum and believes the Department's idea of formulating an academic program committee to study this and other streamlining possibilities is wise.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and under consideration by the program.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Recommendation #2

Classics should harmonize the requirements between the 10-credit Honours Classical Civilization Stream, the 12-credit Classical Studies Stream, and the BA with Major, and clarify the different GPA requirements for each program in the calendar.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We believe harmonization of the credit requirements between streams to be a sound recommendation and it has already been discussed at a Departmental Retreat in May 2018.
- An Academic Program Committee has been formed to address the issue and to formulate ideas on how best to harmonize the program streams.
- We plan to link the generic calendar GPA requirements to our page in the calendar in order to make the different GPA requirements for each program clearer.

The Faculty Dean stated:

As per Recommendation 1, the Dean supports these curriculum review efforts.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and under consideration by the program.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Recommendation #3

The Department should place more emphasis on promoting the Minor program.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We have taken steps in recent years to make the Minor more attractive, for example by reducing the number of required credits from five to four and by eliminating the one credit language requirement. As a consequence, we have seen a recent uptick in our number of majors (from 51 last year to 66 currently). It must be noted, however, that under current administrative policies there seems to be no real benefit to promoting the minor program since the administrative focus remains on numbers of departmental majors.
- This issue was discussed at a Departmental Retreat in May 2018 and we are now in the process of preparing promotional material that would specifically pair a Classics minor with complementary programs.

The Faculty Dean stated:

Actively promoting the Minor programme with complementary degrees is always to our benefit. In addition to the demonstrable rise in majors who have already been inspired to convert to CLAS, a robust Minor with a wide demographic demonstrates the value of Classics as a discipline. Regardless of how numbers are assessed in the future, this value will not go unnoticed.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Recommendation #4

The Classics Department should assess and monitor student interest in the Pass program to ensure its value and desirability.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We agree with this recommendation to monitor the program, and will discuss its value in an upcoming departmental meeting and/or retreat. We note, however, that the pass degree is a common option for students in many programs at Brock and an option for students who prefer a three-year degree.

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean agrees with including this issue on a Departmental retreat agenda, and also concurs with the Department’s current belief that this degree option is still viable at Brock.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and under consideration by the program.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Recommendation #5

Classics should revise and reorganize second-year undergraduate courses so that they flow more coherently into third-year courses.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We agree with this recommendation, and it has already been discussed at a recent departmental retreat.
- An Academic Program Committee has been formed to address the issue.

The Faculty Dean stated:

See Recommendation #1 response.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and under consideration by the program.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Recommendation #6

The department should ensure there are appropriate final year or capstone requirements in each of its undergraduate programs.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We believe this recommendation is worth serious consideration and it has already been discussed at a recent departmental retreat.
- We are now in the process of writing up potential formulations for such capstone courses, and the Academic Program Committee will consider these in Fall 2018.

The Faculty Dean stated:

See Recommendation #1 response. There are several models for capstone courses already in place in the FoH, e.g., MARS 4P00/4P01.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and under consideration by the program.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Recommendation #7

The department should monitor and track the training, skill acquisition, and oversight of graduate student seminar leaders, and possibly quantify these in terms of graduate degree level outcomes

In its response, the Department stated:

- We agree with this recommendation, but feel that more administrative support for our graduate program is needed for implementation.

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean supports the training and acquisition of teaching skills for seminar leaders, and advises the Department to explore options that are not dependent on an increase in administrative support.

The Dean of Graduate Studies stated:

I find Recommendation #7 ... to be very interesting. In some respects, this accords with the current efforts being undertaken by the university to broaden the means by which we measure experiential opportunities. I wonder whether the Program might be able to partner with/consult with both the Centre for Pedagogical Innovation (CPI) and the Career, Co-op, Experiential Education (CCEE) office for assistance with this. While these units might help with tracking, it would be the Program's responsibility to map to graduate degree level outcomes.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. The Committee expects that the program will work to implement this recommendation in consultation with other support units on campus.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Recommendation #8

The department needs to explore ways to make its programs more attractive to modern students (and their parents) by actively promoting the link from program skills, knowledge, and experiences to particular fields of employment.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We believe that we are already making efforts to do just this in on our activities, on our webpage and in our promotional literature. For example, we have an undergraduate brochure outlining a number of career paths. We have in recent years inaugurated a Recruitment and Retention Committee, which has been very active in generating and implementing new ideas to address such issues. In the past, we have also invited alumni to speak to our students about opportunities beyond the university and this is something we will look into re-implementing on a more regular basis.

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean concurs with the Department that efforts in this area are already well underway.

The Dean of Graduate Studies stated:

Regarding Recommendation #8...one possible way forward is to follow Recommendation #12 (e.g., reduce or eliminate Greek and Latin requirements). I know that Departmental Response indicates concerns about this, however, I would encourage the department to evaluate this possibility more thoroughly.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and already in progress. The Department is encouraged to monitor implementation and adjust as appropriate.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Recommendation #9

The Undergraduate Program Officer should receive a half-credit course release, and the UPO's role in coordinating the undergraduate program should be strengthened and more clearly defined.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We believe this recommendation is worth serious consideration and will discuss it in an upcoming departmental meeting and/or retreat. It may well be that better definition of the duties of the UPO are required. It should be emphasized that any compensation for such a position (such as course release) would need to be a decision made at the decanal level.
- Departmental service roles were discussed at a recent Departmental Retreat. It was agreed that those currently occupying the various roles would write up the current responsibilities of these roles in time for discussion during a departmental meeting in Fall 2018.

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean agrees that the role of the Undergraduate Programme Officer should be clearly defined. The provision of additional resources (such as course releases not mandated by the *Collective Agreement between Brock University and the Brock University Faculty Association*) lies outside of ARC's purview.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to give the Undergraduate Program Officer a half-credit course release to be not accepted as this lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction.

ARC considers the recommendation to review the role of the UPO to be accepted.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Recommendation #10

The department should organize one “town hall” meeting or retreat each year devoted to the undergraduate program attended by all permanent instructors, part-time instructors, and student representatives.

In its response, the Department stated:

- The department currently organizes an annual retreat in May, and will take into consideration the idea of inviting part-time instructors and student representatives to future retreats. It should be noted that part-time instructors have made it clear both verbally and in writing that they are not interested in participating in our regular department meetings, where such issues are normally discussed.
- The role of part-time instructors was discussed at a recent Departmental Retreat, and it was agreed that part-time instructors would be invited to all future departmental meetings, and that meetings in which they might take particular interest (e.g. UPC submissions) would be highlighted for them.
- It was agreed that an Academic Program Committee would be formed and that a part-time instructor would be invited to serve as a representative on this committee.

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean agrees with the idea of allowing part-time instructors the option of attending Departmental meetings where issues that affect them are being discussed. It is understood that their participation in such meetings would be within the bounds of the *Collective Agreement between Brock University and the Brock University Faculty Association*, Article 16, and the Departmental Rules and Procedures (which may need revision to accommodate this change).

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to organize a retreat for instructors and student representatives each year to be accepted for consideration. The Committee believes that a Town Hall would not be appropriate to the reviewers’ intentions as it is a more public event.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Recommendation #11

The department should consider combining the three MA streams into one basic stream, with graduate teaching and supervisions shared more equally among available faculty.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We agree with this recommendation, and it has already been discussed at a recent departmental retreat.
- Our Graduate Program Director has agreed to look into the possibility of reducing the MA specializations from three to two by getting rid of our General (no field of specialization).

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean supports regular review of curriculum and is confident that the Department will investigate this.

The Dean of Graduate Studies stated:

I agree with the reviewers that Recommendation #11... is a very attractive option. It has many possible positive outcomes and I am pleased to see that the Department is considering some reduction in options. Flexibility in programming can bring benefits and a reduction or even elimination of streams would support these and perhaps make the program more attractive (Recommendation #8).

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and under consideration by the program.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Recommendation #12

The department should ensure the course requirements for the MA program are consistent with other Brock MA programs. The department should further consider reducing or eliminating Greek and Latin requirements for students not intending to go on to a Classics PhD program.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We will investigate the consistency of course requirements across MA programs at Brock University, but we wonder if the reviewers were in fact comparing the 2 year Classics MA program to other 1 year MA programs at Brock, such as History, English, and Philosophy.
- We recognize that our language requirements, and the increasing rarity of students with adequate undergraduate preparation in Greek and Latin, have led to issues with student workload and time to graduation.
- We note that we have recently reduced language requirements for our Art and Archaeology specialization. We worry that further reductions would be detrimental to our program and to the students, especially since most students enter the program with the intent to go on to a PhD. Furthermore, it is unclear how this recommendation can be implemented along with Recommendation #11, which suggests combining the three MA streams into a single stream.

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean agrees that there seems to have been some confusion on the part of the reviewers, in comparing the two-year Classics MA with other MA programmes in the Faculty, which are one-year in length. The Dean notes that the Department has already taken steps to address concerns about language acquisition and supports further discussion to address times to completion.

The Dean of Graduate Studies stated:

one possible way forward [in implementing Recommendation #8] is to follow Recommendation #12 (e.g., reduce or eliminate Greek and Latin requirements). I know that Departmental Response indicates concerns about this, however, I would encourage the department to evaluate this possibility more thoroughly.

The Senate Graduate Studies Committee stated:

The reviewers note that approaches to language vary between universities and trust that decisions about language requirements in undergraduate and graduate programs will be made based on pedagogy. Language changes in the undergraduate curricula could have a negative impact on the graduate program. The committee discussed the comments about language requirements for graduate students, noting that taking a certain number of courses may not always result in language competence. We trust that the program will consider suggestions and comments carefully in light of possible contradictory

recommendations with a previous review.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to ensure the course requirements for the MA program are consistent with other Brock 2-Year MA programs to be accepted.

ARC considers the recommendation to reduce or eliminate Greek and Latin requirements for students not intending to go on to a Classics PhD program to be accepted for consideration.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Recommendation #13

If the department wishes to expand its graduate program, it should consider sharing supervisory faculty and courses with other graduate programs and participation in transdisciplinary graduate programs.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We believe this recommendation is worth serious consideration and will discuss it in an upcoming departmental meeting and/or retreat.

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean supports regular review of curriculum and encourages the Programme to discuss this.

The Dean of Graduate Studies stated:

Recommendations #13 ... and #14 ... both speak to capacity issues facing the MA program. I encourage the department to investigate opportunities relating to #13. It seems to me that a number of programs within both the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences might lend themselves to fruitful transdisciplinary research and teaching possibilities. Streamlining and reductions in the number of courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels will also assist with the capacity issue.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and under consideration by the program.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Recommendation #14

The department should explore possibilities to allow part-time instructors to assume a fuller range of teaching responsibilities, including graduate instruction where applicable.

In its response, the Department stated:

- It is our understanding that this is not currently allowed. The Faculty Handbook states that “graduate courses will be taught by a member of the graduate program’s core and participating faculty member list as published in the yearly Graduate Calendar” (FH Section 3.B.4.10).

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean agrees that graduate courses are to be taught by core and participating faculty, in accordance with the Faculty Handbook.

The Dean of Graduate Studies response to #13 also addresses #14.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted. The recommendation runs counter to University regulations.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Recommendation #15

The three-year LTA in Classics should be converted into a tenure stream appointment.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We endorse this recommendation.

The Faculty Dean stated:

This recommendation lies outside of the purview of ARC. The Department is encouraged to advocate for positions through the process identified by the Provost's office.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. It is expected that the Department will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for faculty resources.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Recommendation #16

A part-time person should be hired to share assist the Administrative Officer.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We endorse this recommendation.

The Faculty Dean stated:

This recommendation lies outside the purview of this process.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. It is expected that the Department will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for staff resources.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Recommendation #17

Classics should revise its departmental rules to promote more equitable sharing of administrative tasks (Chair, GPD, UPO, and all departmental representative positions listed on pp. 916-917 of the self-study), and to protect junior faculty from heavy administrative service.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We believe this recommendation is worth serious consideration and will discuss it in an upcoming departmental meeting and/or retreat.
- We should point out, however, that the Departmental Rules are revised and updated on an annual basis, and that we believe the reviewers incorrectly assumed that our current Graduate Program Director is a junior faculty member because he is an Assistant Professor. In fact, he is a tenured and senior member of our department (and is also currently Vice-chair of Senate).

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean recognizes that the Department reviews and approves its Rules and Procedures annually, in accordance with the *Collective Agreement between Brock University and the Brock University Faculty Association*. The Dean encourages the Department to monitor workloads and equitable division of service responsibilities.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it constitutes existing practice.

Implementation Plan

No action required.

Recommendation #18

The program should work closely with the library to ensure that basic resources needed for the delivery of undergraduate and graduate courses are available, and that acquisitions prioritize these resources. All students, especially graduate students, should be required to learn how to use the interlibrary loan system.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We believe this is a misperception on the part of the reviewers, since our book orders always prioritize course-related material and our library representative does work with closely with our library liaison.
- It is also the case that our graduate Proseminar does cover the basics of interlibrary loan, so that all graduate students are exposed to the system during the first term of their graduate careers.

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean agrees with the Department's positions here.

The Dean of Graduate Studies stated:

I agree with the spirit of Recommendation #18...but would like to point out that the Brock library has been pro-active in finding novel ways to expand resources available to all levels of students.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it constitutes existing practice.

Implementation Plan

No action required.

Recommendation #19

The institution and department should work together to ensure all data needed for the program quality assurance process are fully collected in future years and that separate data are collected and analyzed for each of the programs offered by the Classics Department.

In its response, the Department stated:

- We agree that the institution and department should work together to collect all necessary data; it was at times difficult for the department to get data necessary for the self-study from Institutional Analysis. It should be pointed out, also, that it was necessary to eliminate some data from the self-study, in order to reduce the overall page count.

The Faculty Dean stated:

The Dean agrees that the collection and presentation of data for self-study documents should be stream-lined and co-ordinated. The responsibility for this work should properly lie with central offices that have access to information and resources to do the job effectively.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. It is expected that the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic will work with the Office of Institutional Analysis to address data concerns.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic
Responsible for resources:	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic
Responsible for implementation:	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic
Timeline:	Vice-Provost and AVP, Academic to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Confidential Recommendation #20

As per the IQAP Section 2.10 regarding “confidential recommendations and/or comments relating to personnel issues or other matters specifically involving individuals. These will be treated as confidential to the Dean(s), the academic unit and ARC.”

Confidential Recommendation #21

As per the IQAP Section 2.10 regarding “confidential recommendations and/or comments relating to personnel issues or other matters specifically involving individuals. These will be treated as confidential to the Dean(s), the academic unit and ARC.”

D. Summary of Recommendations:

First Priority:

Recommendations #1,2,3,4,8,9,10,11,12,13,19

Second Priority:

Recommendations #5,6,7

Not requiring further action:

Recommendations #17,18

Not accepted:

Recommendations #14,15,16