

Final Assessment Report

Oenology and Viticulture

Undergraduate Programs

(reviewed 2017-19)

A. Summary

1. The program's Self Study was considered and approved by the Academic Review Committee of Senate on December 12, 2018.
2. The Review Committee consisted of two external reviewers: Thomas Henick-Kling (Washington State University) and Justine Vanden Heuvel (Cornell) and an internal reviewer, David Brown (Brock University).
3. The site visit occurred on March 26-28, 2019.
4. The Reviewers' Report was received on May 1, 2019.
5. The Senate Undergraduate Program Committee response was received on May 21, 2019.
6. The program's response was received on June 13, 2019.
7. The Dean of Mathematics and Science response was received on June 17, 2019.

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

The academic programs offered in Oenology and Viticulture which were examined and rated as part of the review were:

Program(s)	Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Good Quality with Concerns	Non-Viable
BSc (Honours) Co-op	X			
Minor		X but this isn't a functional program, it's the fallback for students not completing coop		
Certificate in Grape and Wine Technology		X		

B. Strengths of the Program

The reviewers identified the following strengths of the program:

outstanding curriculum, excellent faculty, competent and engaged instructors, sizeable and enthusiastic cohort of students, well-equipped facilities, networked with industry across Canada, co-op program that provides hands-on experience, emphasis on experiential learning, excellent job placement rate.

C. Opportunities for Improvement and Enhancement

Recommendation #1

The curriculum committee should meet with students to discuss the curriculum. Students suggested that some courses were redundant (i.e., molecular biology and molecular genetics). Soil science and Plant Physiology should be required courses as they are integral to understanding the science of viticulture!

In its response, the program stated:

We agree with the reviewers and will initiate discussions with past and present students concerning the curriculum. Special attention will be made on the suggestion to have soil science and/or plant physiology incorporated as required in the program.

The Dean of Mathematics and Science stated that:

The Dean's Office supports the initiatives OEVI has outlined in response to recommendations 1-8.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee encourages the program to utilize student feedback in the process of ongoing curriculum review.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Recommendation #2

Further develop a relationship with the business college to enhance course offerings in wine business.

In its response, the program stated:

We agree with this recommendation and are working with the Faculty of Business to increase offerings in wine business courses/programs.

The Dean of Mathematics and Science stated that:

The Dean’s Office supports the initiatives OEVI has outlined in response to recommendations 1-8.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understand the reviewers’ reference to the “business college” to mean the Goodman School of Business.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Recommendation #3

Consider developing three streams for specialization within the curriculum: Viticulture, Enology, Wine Business/Marketing.

In its response, the program stated:

We consider one of the greatest strengths of our program to be the inclusion of all aspects of oenology and viticulture and thus hesitate to split the program into three defined streams. However, we are in the process of increasing flexibility within our program by introducing a course selection option allowing for specialization.

The Dean of Mathematics and Science stated that:

The Dean's Office supports the initiatives OEVI has outlined in response to recommendations 1-8.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that the Unit is best-positioned to determine how to incorporate more specialization and increased flexibility into the program.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Recommendation #4

Consider having sessionals contribute to faculty-led courses, and faculty contribute to sessional-led courses, so that there is more oversight of content in the sessional-led courses. Consider having CCOVI scientists make a stronger contribution to the teaching program.

In its response, the program stated:

As the reviewers have pointed out within the text of their report, the number of full-time faculty teaching in the OEVI program is extremely limited. Joint teaching is common within the Biological sciences program, which has also begun to mix faculty and sessional instructors within single courses. We will explore the feasibility of this approach within the OEVI program as well as exploring the possibility of increasing OEVI teaching faculty members.

The Dean of Mathematics and Science stated that:

The Dean’s Office supports the initiatives OEVI has outlined in response to recommendations 1-8.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to encourage interaction between faculty and sessional instructors and their courses to be accepted. The Committee considers the recommendation that CCOVI scientists contribute to teaching in the program to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee’s jurisdiction and has implications with respect to collective agreements at the university.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Recommendation #5

More flexibility in the program may be required to attract more students. Investigate opportunities to offer a non co-op stream, particularly targeted at students whom have had substantial experience prior to enrolling in OEVI. This option may help increase enrollment of mature students and transfers from other institutions since time to graduation would be reduced.

In its response, the program stated:

We agree completely with the idea of introducing a non co-op stream to both the OEVI BSc and certificate programs, and are already working on implementing this.

The Dean of Mathematics and Science stated that:

The Dean's Office supports the initiatives OEVI has outlined in response to recommendations 1-8.

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:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Recommendation #6

Offer a true minor in OEVI (the current minor appears to simply be an opt-out for students who did not successfully complete co-op) to increase enrollment in courses. Lectures could be uncoupled from labs as minors will not need as much hands-on experience.

In its response, the program stated:

Once the co-op less stream is in place, the use of the minor as an “opt out” for students will stop. We do not agree with separating lectures and labs as we consider the laboratory experiential experience critical to all of our students.

The Dean of Mathematics and Science stated that:

The Dean’s Office supports the initiatives OEVI has outlined in response to recommendations 1-8.

The Senate Undergraduate Program Committee stated:

We strongly support recommendation #6.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration. The Committee believes that the program is best-qualified to determine the future of the minor once the new non-Co-op stream is in place.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Recommendation #7

Build 2 + 2 within Canada and international

In its response, the program stated:

Excellent suggestion and we are actively working on this!

The Dean of Mathematics and Science stated that:

The Dean's Office supports the initiatives OEVI has outlined in response to recommendations 1-8.

The Senate Undergraduate Program Committee stated:

We ... endorse recommendation #7 and #9. While we cannot advocate for the hiring of new Faculty, we can encourage collaboration with other departments and Faculties (ie. Goodman School of Business).

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:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Recommendation #8

Study the possibility of combining OEVI and CCOVI under CCOVI for more efficient use of resources.

In its response, the program stated:

CCOVI is not an academic department so it is not possible for it to host the OEVI program. However, CCOVI is an active partner with Biological Sciences in supporting and promoting the program and efficient use is already being made of resources to support both.

The Dean of Mathematics and Science stated that:

The Dean’s Office supports the initiatives OEVI has outlined in response to recommendations 1-8.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to merge OEVI and CCOVI to be not accepted as the structure of CCOVI as a Research Institute does not make this possible. The Committee considers the underlying recommendation to study the possibility of a more efficient use of resources to be accepted.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Recommendation #9

Hire two more faculty to support increased enrollment in the OEVI program. Administration wants the program to grow but it is impossible with the limited faculty. Program appears to currently be running on ~1.5 FTE tenured faculty.

In its response, the program stated:

This recommendation is of course well beyond the purview of ARC as it has significant financial implications. It appears to be very difficult, especially in the current financial situation, to even guarantee retirement replacement positions for biology faculty members contributing to required courses with many large undergraduate and graduate programs within Maths and Sciences and other within other faculties. As we work to increase the OEVI enrollments we hope to be able to increase faculty able to contribute to teaching in OEVI.

The Dean of Mathematics and Science stated:

The Dean will continue to advocate for replacement faculty and new hires to support programs in the FMS [Faculty of Mathematics and Science], including OEVI.

The Senate Undergraduate Program Committee stated:

We ... endorse recommendation #7 and #9. While we cannot advocate for the hiring of new Faculty, we can encourage collaboration with other departments and Faculties (ie. Goodman School of Business).

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

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

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Recommendation #10

Research thesis should be optional as it requires tremendous faculty resources to offer and delays student graduation. An option of group capstone projects should be considered

In its response, the program stated:

We do not agree with an optional research thesis. The thesis has always been a central element to our OEVI program.

The Dean of Mathematics and Science stated:

OEVI should consider exploring alternatives to the research thesis, such as group projects as suggested by the reviewers. However, the Dean's Office will leave the ultimate decision with OEVI.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration. The Committee expects that the Unit is best-positioned to review the issue of more flexibility for students and the best use of faculty resources.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

D. Summary of Recommendations:

First Priority:

Recommendations 1,2,5,7,8

Second Priority:

Recommendations 3,4,6,10

Not accepted:

Recommendation 9