

BA Social Sciences

Undergraduate Review

Year 3 (2023) - FAR Implementation Report

(reviewed 2019/20)

Recommendation #1

The current methods class is an important component of the program and should be retained.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. The Committee believes the program is best-positioned to determine the frequency of the course offering.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Social Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Course has been retained.	Department	C		

Comments 2021:

The course has been retained. It may be offered annually, if the program committee concurs.

Comments 2022:

Same as above.

Comments 2023:

The course has been retained. The Program Committee did not seek to offer the course for 2023/2024.

*On Target (T), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Complete and Ongoing (O)

Recommendation #2

A curriculum committee for the BA Social Sciences should be established.

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 Social Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 A program committee will be formed following the Spring 2021 Faculty of Social Sciences retreat.	Department	T	C	

Comments 2021:

A program committee will be formed following the Spring 2021 Faculty of Social Sciences retreat.

Comments 2022:

Expressions of interest were sought in the Fall term 2021 and early Winter term 2022. A program committee was convened in March 2022, and an interim director was selected. The BA Social Sciences will move to having a permanent program director and program committee in July 2022.

Comments 2023:

The Program Committee is now established.

Recommendation #3

Explore possibility of a capstone course.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

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

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 The program committee will explore capstone course options in spring 2021.	Department	T	T	C

Comments 2021:

The program committee will explore capstone course options.

Comments 2022:

Following a process to establish the BA Social Sciences with an interim director and program committee in 2022, the newly formed program committee will explore the potential and options for a capstone course.

Comments 2023:

The Program Committee (PC) discussed and rejected the proposal. The PC primarily views the BASS program as a safety net for students. The PC does not want to create a program that will then draw students away from other substantive programs in the Social Sciences with dedicated faculty members. Further, there are no dedicated faculty resources attached to the program. The PC, in considering whether to offer its method course in the 23/24 academic year, declined to do so, precisely to avoid drawing students away from equivalent courses housed within standalone major programs.

Recommendation #4

Better communications about the program and its structure to both faculty and students, including the creation of a website and information materials.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

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

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

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

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Communications, website and information materials have been updated and modified.	Department	O		

Comments 2021:

Communications, website and information materials have been updated and modified, both in response to COVID-19 and in anticipation of future needs. We view this item as ongoing and iterative, so will modify as needed moving forward.

Comments 2022:

Same as above.

Comments 2023:

Ongoing.

Recommendation #5

Promote the BA Social Sciences as a unique entry point into Brock University.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

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

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

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

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 We have integrated this pathway into our recruitment materials.	Department	C		

Comments 2021:

This recommendation flows from recommendation #4 (above), and we have integrated this pathway into our recruitment materials.

Comments 2022:

Same as above.

Comments 2023:

Complete.

Recommendation #6

Work to create a richer “cohort” experience for the BA Social Sciences.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

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

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 We continue to explore potential cohort enhancing options.	Department	T	T	C

Comments 2021:

We continue to explore potential cohort enhancing options, such as piloting a meet and greet and encouraging a potential student association with representation on the program committee.

Comments 2022:

As per the Collective Agreement, a Program Committee was established in March 2022. The PC will discuss the recommendation to create a richer “cohort” experience for students in the BA Social Sciences.

Comments 2023:

The Program Committee (PC) rejected the above recommendation. The PC primarily sees the program as providing a safety net for students in the social sciences to be able to graduate with a degree in Social Sciences if they fail to meet the standards for a standalone major/combined major degree. The PC does not want to draw students away from programs housed in Departments and Centres, where they are better served by dedicated faculty. That said, the Program does host an orientation event. We also send out information about events and opportunities that may be of interest to the BASS students.