

PhD in Interdisciplinary Humanities

Graduate Review

Year 3 (2022) - FAR Implementation Report

(reviewed 2018/19)

Recommendation #1

Reverse the order of the comprehensive examination and thesis proposal requirements, so that the comprehensives come first.

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 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1: A HUMA subcommittee revised the program’s exam procedures and reversed the order of the exam and thesis proposal. These revisions were approved by the HUMA program committee at its Fall 2019 meeting.	Program	C		

Comments 2020:

The recommendation has been implemented.

Recommendation #2

Expand and promote opportunities for “Regionally-Engaged” and “Research Creation” projects. HUMA should build on an area of existing (but underexploited) strength by encouraging, emphasizing, and promoting “Research Creation” (PhD final projects that include both creative and scholarly components) and other alternative PhD final project forms that require students to engage more broadly with audiences both inside and outside the academy. Related to this, we encourage the program to explore expansion of opportunities for students to pursue regionally-engaged and public-facing humanities practices and degree outcomes in HUMA’s program.

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

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration. The Committee expects that the program is best-positioned to examine how HUMA degree outcomes might be changed to encourage public-facing humanities practices and the possibility of alternative PhD final project forms.

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 2020/2021

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 HUMA has expanded its capstone projects to include a research-creation and a suite format. These are described in detail in the October 2020 version of the programme’s handbook.	Program	T	C	

Comments 2020:

The creation of alternative capstone projects is something that must proceed carefully, the HUMA program committee has decided, and as a result the program committee is continuing to assess the options and, as its procedures already permit, proceed on a case-by-case assessment of the research projects of its students, some of whom already are working on projects that will eventuate in scholarly artefacts that go beyond the traditional dissertation.

Comments 2021:

The creation of alternative capstone projects has expanded the range of interdisciplinary projects that HUMA students can undertake.

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

Recommendation #3

Create more flexible student programs of study by increasing the number of non-HUMA elective courses students can take.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration. The Committee expects that the program is best-positioned to determine the number of non-HUMA elective courses students will be allowed to take.

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 2020/2021

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Consider the recommendation.	Program	C		

Comments 2020:

The program took the recommendation into consideration and determined that no action on this recommendation was necessary, as it has already been completed on a case-by case basis. As the program observed in its FAR, “with approval of the graduate program director students may already take more than one half-credit non-HUMA elective as part of their program.”

Recommendation #4

Review, refine and codify the relationship between the supervisory committee and the Program Committee.

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 2019/20

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

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1: In its revisions to program procedures undertaken to meet recommendation 1, the program committee ensured that the relationship between the supervisory committee and the program committee was clearly articulated.	Program	C		

Comments 2020:

The program committee feels that it has completed this requirement. Its current procedures clearly detail the responsibilities of the supervisory committee, the program committee, and the student.

Recommendation #5

HUMA’s Program Committee should work with adjacent/cognate units towards the development of an Interdisciplinary MA in the Humanities.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration.

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 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1: a subcommittee was struck to assess the possibility of creating a HUMA MA.	Program	T	D	C

Comments 2020:

HUMA struck a subcommittee to investigate the viability of and procedures for creating a HUMA MA. Its conclusion was that it is too early to decide whether a HUMA MA would be useful. Brock’s SCLA and PCUL programs are undergoing substantial reorganization at the moment, and once their final shape becomes clear the HUMA program might conclude that it

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

would be better to work with those programs than to create its own MA in competition with them.

Comments 2021:

After the review, HUMA struck a subcommittee to investigate the viability of and procedures for creating a HUMA MA. Its conclusion was that it is too early to decide whether a HUMA MA would be useful. Brock’s SCLA programme is currently undergoing external review, and, depending on the results of that programme’s reorganization, the HUMA programme committee might be best served working with SCLA rather than mounting a competing MA.

Comments 2022:

As an MA in Interdisciplinary Humanities is not an option for the near future, no further action will be taken.

Recommendation #6

The Program Committee should revisit and re-conceptualize the general field exam component of comprehensive exam:

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 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1: see Recommendation 1.	Program	C		

Comments 2020:

As part of its revision of the comprehensive exam procedures as a whole, the program revised its general comprehensive exam procedures.

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

Recommendation #7

We encourage the Program Committee to continue to recruit new faculty participation in teaching core courses, welcoming HUMA students into their existing courses, serving on supervisory committees (as supervisors, co-supervisors or members), and taking part in program leadership. As part of visualizing and actualizing an open and flexible definition of “interdisciplinary humanities,” the Program Committee should be constantly seeking opportunities to tap the research and teaching potential of scholars in the Faculty of Humanities, and from relevant fields in the Social Sciences, Education, and the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.

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 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1: recruit a wider range of faculty to teach in the program.	Program	T	T	O

Comments 2020:

In 2020-2021, HUMA’s elective courses and HUMA 7N07 will be taught by faculty who have not taught in the program before. Their home departments span the Humanities: Dramatic Arts, Education, English, and the Centre for Digital Humanities. On the program committee and serving as supervisors or on such committees as comprehensive exam committees are faculty representing almost every department in the Humanities. Obviously, there is no projected completion time for this recommendation: the endeavour will always be ongoing.

Comments 2021:

In 2021-2022, as in 2020-2021, HUMA’s elective courses and HUMA 7N07 will be taught by faculty whose home departments span the Humanities and beyond: Dramatic Arts, Education, English, and the Centre for Posthumanism. On the program committee and serving as supervisors or on such committees as comprehensive exam committees are faculty representing almost every department in the Humanities. Obviously, there is no projected completion time for this recommendation: the endeavour will always be ongoing.

Comments 2022:

For 2022-2023 7P75: Digital Literacies will be taught by a faculty member from Digital Humanities and 7P56: Consumerism as Worldview will be taught by a Philosophy professor

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from Education. We are still negotiating about offering one more elective, 7P53: Colonial/Postcolonial Histories. In response to concerns from students about a lack of instructional diversity in any given year, we received a recommendation that a by-law be added limiting faculty members to teaching no more than one course in the program per year.

Recommendation #8

Supporting innovative interdisciplinary programs calls for innovations in administration. Despite resource constraints, there are many things that the Faculty of Humanities and other senior administrative units could do to promote the success of (this and other) interdisciplinary graduate programs.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not actionable as stated. However, the Committee recognizes the role of administrative offices in the promotion of programs and encourages the program to consult with them as appropriate.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Comments 2021:

As the recommendation was not accepted, the program committee took no action on it.