

Final Assessment Report

Kinesiology Undergraduate Programs (reviewed 2019-20)

A. Summary

1. The Department's Self Study was considered and approved by the Senate Academic Review Committee on October 29, 2019.
2. The Review Committee consisted of two external reviewers: Patricia Weir (University of Windsor) and Douglas Brown (University of Manitoba) and one internal reviewer, Jeff Atkinson (Brock University).
3. The site visit occurred on January 26-28, 2020.
4. The Reviewers' Report was received on March 3, 2020.
5. The Department response was received on April 3, 2020.
6. The Dean of Applied Health Sciences response was received on April 3, 2020.
7. The Undergraduate Program Committee response was received on Apr 8, 2020.

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

Based on their knowledge of the discipline, the content of the Self-Study and the interviews conducted during the site visit, the Review Team gave the programs the following Outcome Category:

Program(s)	Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Good Quality with Concerns	Non-Viable
BSc (Honours) Kinesiology		X		
BKin (Honours)		X		
BKin (Honours) Co-op		X		
BPhEd (Honours)		X		
BPhEd (Honours)/BEd Intermediate/Senior		X		
BPhEd (Honours)/BEd Junior/Intermediate		X		

B. Strengths of the Program

The reviewers noted the following strengths:

The Department of Kinesiology undergraduate programs have many strengths. First, there is a good variety and breadth of academic programming. The Bachelor of Physical Education is one of very few programs of its kind left in Ontario and the concurrent Education option makes the program attractive to not only those who want to enter teaching professions but those who are interested in working in community-based recreation. The Bachelor of Kinesiology and Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology programs offer a traditional suite of course work focussed on the breadth of Kinesiology and socio-cultural courses, or Kinesiology and science courses. There is considerable overlap in the academic Kinesiology content, but the optional courses differentiate the two programs.

An inherent strength in all programs is the quality of the teaching professoriate. The faculty are well qualified, dedicated, research active and take their community service obligations seriously. The breadth of service-learning opportunities in the community for students is one-of-a-kind and reflects the dedication and commitment of faculty to keep these programs running.

The service-learning opportunities represent the creative aspect of the degree programs. Student spoke very highly that there were experiential learning opportunities for all students through courses and the programming available through the Brock-Niagara Centre for Health and Well-Being (SeniorFit, Heart strong, Power cord, Therapeutic exercise for amputees in motion) and other programs overseen by faculty members (SNAP, CHARM etc.).

Both the faculty members and students clearly articulated the strengths of the department. Students talked about a sense of community, a campus that was a comfortable size, caring faculty, experiential learning opportunities, teaching assistant support, and breadth of assessment methods. Faculty members mentioned good colleagues, investments in laboratory equipment and support of the Faculty Dean. Overall, there are many excellent things happening in the Department of Kinesiology.

C. Opportunities for Improvement and Enhancement

Recommendation #1

The Department should partner with the Office of Institutional Analysis to explore the relationship between admission average and Year 1 academic performance. This can be done on several levels including performance in KIN 1P90, 1P93 1P98 and overall academic performance, as well as retention from Year 1 to Year 2 in the same program.

The Department stated:

The response of the Department is that this is a very constructive recommendation. It is realistic and feasible action that can provide evidence for admissions and retention initiatives. Furthermore, the Departmental discussion included suggestions that this exploration could include retrospective data from previous years. The Chair and Academic Advisor are [charged] with following up on this recommendation

The Dean responded:

This data would be very helpful in informing discussions regarding admission and retention issues in the department. I would also suggest that if possible, analysis of these relationships with regard to grades in specific grade 12 courses such as Mathematics and English may also prove to be insightful.

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

Recommendation #2

The Department should revisit the Curriculum Mapping exercise with a goal of exploring and reviewing more fully the course level learning outcomes with an emphasis on the upper years.

The Department stated:

The response of the Department is that this is a very constructive recommendation. This action should take 1-2 years, comprising several annual retreats, and including leadership from the Center of Pedagogical Innovation. In particular, the Department recognizes that we may have misidentified and underreported the level of mastery in the curriculum, and that a thorough and systematic revisiting of curriculum mapping would be very beneficial. The Department’s Curriculum Committee is charged with following up this recommendation.

The Dean responded:

I support the Departmental response to this important recommendation and would be happy to support these responses with any reasonable resources needed to realize these goals.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

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

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2021/22

Recommendation #3

The Department should track student success outcomes in terms of student funding through competitive scholarships (e.g., NSERC USRA), publications and presentations.

The Department stated:

Discussion in the Departmental meeting was very supportive of this recommendation. Furthermore, other indicators of success, such as successful Match of Minds applications, were also suggested. The Chair is [charged] with following up on this recommendation.

The Dean responded:

Again, this is a helpful recommendation that will help inform the department of its students' success and will support the actualization of this tracking in any way necessary.

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

Recommendation #4

The Department should review curricular structure in years 3 and 4 with the goal of rebalancing the core curriculum and elective courses to reduce reliance on directed studies courses.

The Department stated:

The response of the Department is that this is a very constructive recommendation. Actions to address this recommendation will most likely overlap with those for Recommendation #2 (above), in that they will involve the CPI and departmental input over several years. Faculty members also noted that this may present the opportunity to re-structure various upper year experiential learning opportunities (e.g., independent studies, internship courses) and consider the introduction of a capstone course or courses. The Department’s Curriculum Committee is charged with following up this recommendation.

The Dean responded:

These also are important steps in response to a constructive recommendation that will help improve course, program and curricular delivery and improve the overall student learning experience. I am fully supportive.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understands that a review of years 3 and 4 of the curriculum would be done in the context of the curriculum as a whole.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Applied Health Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Recommendation #5

Given recent growth and physical expansion of the department, identify actions that will promote connectedness among faculty, staff and students.

The Department stated:

Discussion in the Departmental meeting was very supportive of this recommendation. It was also recognized that the growth in faculty and student numbers, and space limitations may present restrictions for any actions. However, the department will give a higher priority to social activities among faculty. Furthermore, the undergraduate student council (Kinesiology Student Association) can be encouraged to provide more connectedness among students and between students and faculty. The Chair is changed with following up on this recommendation.

The Dean responded:

These are important “social” steps that are helpful for departmental cohesion (faculty, staff and students). The Dean’s office is fully supportive and ready to provide any needed assistance in this regard. The recent start and hopefully future expansion of the KINE alumni day involving students, faculty, staff and of course alumni is one step toward realization of these types of benefits.

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

D. Summary of Recommendations:

First Priority:

Recommendations 1,3,4,5

Second Priority:

Recommendation 2