

MA in Studies in Comparative Literatures and Arts (SCLA) Review

Year 3 (2024) - FAR Implementation Report (reviewed 2019-2021)

Recommendation #1

Revive the program as an MA in interdisciplinary and comparative studies.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to review and make changes to the program in order to revitalize it to be accepted for consideration. Notwithstanding that the reviewers gave the program an outcome category of *Excellent Quality*, the Committee recognizes that the program has been on hiatus for two years and that a transformation is important for its survival, whether as an MA in Interdisciplinary and Comparative Studies or in another form.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Program
Responsible for resources:	Program
Responsible for implementation:	Program
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021/22.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 SCLA committee is focused on reviving the program.	Committee	T	T	T

Comments 2022:

SCLA committee has struck three subcommittees (mandate/EDID, curriculum/specialization, and recruitment) to explore and respond to all 1st priority recommendations that will collectively respond to this recommendation.

Comments 2023:

Two main foci have been research-creation and a possible alignment between SCLA and PhD in Humanities (HUMA).

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

Comments 2024:

SCLA has produced a framework for research-creation. SCLA continues consultations with HUMA.

Recommendation #2

Provide flexible and stable leadership and co-ordination with a Director on teaching release, supported by a wide-ranging committee membership of various stakeholders meeting regularly, adequately assisted by dedicated support staff, and clear lines of reporting and accountability.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to provide stable governance and clear lines of reporting and accountability to be accepted. The Committee recognizes that broad stakeholder membership and participation in the program is critical for its future viability. However, ARC understands that resources in terms of a director, faculty and staff are outside of its jurisdiction.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021/22.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 SCLA committee meets regularly to discuss and plan program evolution.	Graduate Program Director (GPD)	0		
Action #2 SCLA committee consists of colleagues from MLLC, DART, ENGL.	GPD	0		

Comments 2022:

SCLA intends to widen membership on the committee in 2022-2023.

Comments 2023:

The SCLA committee holds regular meetings. GPD issued a call to recruit new core committee members and also invited individual colleagues from departments outside MLLC. A new Administrative Assistant started in September 2022 (3.5 hours/week).

Comments 2024:

The SCLA committee currently consists of colleagues from MLLC, DART, MUSI, STAC, ENGL, and Classics.

Recommendation #3

Instruction should be on-load as much as possible.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as workload lies outside of its jurisdiction and has implications with respect to Collective Agreements.

Implementation Plan

[Recommendation] Not accepted.

Recommendation #4

Develop a robust recruiting plan, with local, national, and international scope and records, sustained by dedicated support staff.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee recognizes that the Program Director and Committee are responsible for developing a broad-based recruiting plan in partnership with the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Recruitment, Marketing and Communications, and other institutional resources.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021/22.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Recruitment subcommittee is working with MARCOMM to develop new digital recruitment plan.	Committee	T	C	
Action #2 Dean of FGS will meet with GPDs & Assoc. Dean to discuss recruitment.	GPD	T	T	C

Comments 2022:

Preliminary plan is to build out a social media campaign, build a SCLA recruitment page.

Comments 2023:

Among other efforts, the SCLA website has been reorganized and developed. Language on research-creation has been introduced. A recruitment video and a postcard were created. GPD participated in two recruitment events organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), including a SCLA-specific event. A SCLA student visited an upper-level course.

Comments 2024:

Among other efforts, the GPD participated in two SCLA-specific recruitment events organized by FGSPA. A SCLA student represented the program at the Tower Takeover in Fall 2023. Based on applications and on queries from potential students, SCLA estimates that there would have been enough applications for 2024-2025. 2024-2025 will be a no-intake year, a decision made outside SCLA.

Recommendation #5

Enunciate a clear, focused, flexible interdisciplinary and comparatist program mandate, with illustrative examples of possible qualifying undergraduate degrees, programs and projects for potential students, full-and part-time options, recorded and potential career outcomes, funding opportunities, and evolving annotated roster of participating faculty, institutes, units, resources, and sponsors.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation
 ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. The Committee understands the reviewers to be referring to a mandate which will reflect the new priorities of the revitalized program under consideration, per recommendation #1. ARC expects that a mandate which addresses the many criteria listed in the recommendation would be a powerful recruiting tool as well.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)
 Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Mandate/EDID subcommittee is developing a new program mandate to submit to the committee for approval.	Committee	T	T	C

Comments 2022:

Discussion and action will occur during SCLA retreat.

Comments 2023:

The SCLA mandate has been updated: new language has been added and research-creation now appears explicitly.

Recommendation #6

Establish an active, well curated, and student-centred social media presence.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation
 ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. The Committee expects that the Program will work with existing institutional resources to move forward with this recommendation.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)
 Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022-23.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Recruitment subcommittee is working with MARCOMM to create this presence.	Committee/ GPD	T	T	C

Comments 2022:

As a 2nd Priority, real conceptualizing will occur in Year 2.

Comments 2023:

SCLA will contact MARCOMM in Summer 2023 and ask again whether we can print a take-one card.

Comments 2024:

In the absence of a response from MARCOMM, SCLA focuses on recruitment tools (online information sessions through the Office of Graduate Studies & Postdoctoral Affairs, class visits, etc.) other than social media.

Recommendation #7

Establish collaborative and consultative relationships with similar programs and institutions regionally, nationally, and internationally.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation
 ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)
 Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022-23.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Added to transition document for GPD return.	GPD	T	T	T

Comments 2022:

As a 2nd Priority, action left to returning GPD.

Comments 2023:

2022-2023 has been dedicated to substantial exchanges between SCLA and HUMA with the aim to align the two programs. GPDs of SCLA and HUMA also received funding in January 2023 to hire a SCLA research assistant to survey research-creation programs in Canada and internationally.

Comments 2024:

Substantial exchanges exist between SCLA and HUMA.

Recommendation #8

Prioritize and enunciate policy of Equity, Diversity, Indigenization, and Decolonization in all aspects of the program.

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 Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Mandate/EDID subcommittee is developing the policy.	Committee	T	C	

Comments 2022:

Subcommittee will submit proposal for approval by committee upon return of GPD.

Comments 2023:

The policy was established and voted upon in September 2022. It now appears on the SCLA website and will appear in the 2023 update of the SCLA Handbook.

Recommendation #9

Implement community service learning, experiential learning, and internship component, with faculty mentorship, for use where appropriate in a student's or a cohort's program.				
ARC Disposition of the Recommendation				
ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee encourages the Program to consider further opportunities to include experiential components in the curriculum, working with existing institutional resources. ARC expects that the Program is best positioned to determine appropriate strategies to move forward on this issue.				
Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)				
Responsible for approving:		Program		
Responsible for resources:		Program		
Responsible for implementation:		Program		
Timeline:		Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022-23.		

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Added to transition document for GPD return.	Committee	T	T	T

Comments 2022:

As a 2nd Priority, action left to returning GPD.

Comments 2023:

Experiential learning is a strong component in at least two core SCLA courses and includes interactions with professionals, publication, and an exhibition. Students are mentored throughout the year in their scholarly and creative projects.

Comments 2024:

Experiential learning is a strong component in at least two core SCLA courses and includes interactions with professionals, publication, and an exhibition. Students are mentored throughout the year in their scholarly and creative projects.

Recommendation #10

Where appropriate, use team-teaching curated and coordinated by a course director.

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 Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 This is current practice in SCLA.	Committee	O		

Comments 2022:

Committee has added a second team-taught course for 2022-2023.

Comments 2023:

Two SCLA core courses were team-taught in 2022-2023. This will continue in 2023-2024.

Comments 2024:

Two SCLA core courses were team-taught in 2023-2024.

Recommendation #11

Provide opportunities for the program's cohorts and membership to engage socially with each other, develop an esprit de corps, and organize program-related events.

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 Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 This is current practice in SCLA. Cohort meets biweekly with GPD.	GPD	O		
Action #2 SCLA hosts a graduate student conference co-organized by the cohort.	GPD/ Teaching staff	O		

Comments 2022:

Activities will continue into year 2.

Comments 2023:

The above activities have continued in year 2 and will continue into year 3.

Comments 2024:

The above activities have continued in year 3.

Recommendation #12

Language requirements should be adapted to the student's program.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be current practice.

Implementation Plan

No further action required.

Recommendation #13

Rename SCLA

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation
 ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understands that consideration of a name change is dependent on the implementation of recommendation #1.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)
 Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 SCLA committee will rename program.	Committee	T	T	D

Comments 2022:

The work of the three subcommittees will be essential to determine an appropriate new name for the program.

Comments 2023:

Following a vote in SCLA and MLLC, SCLA submitted a new name proposal though UPC in Fall 2022. The proposal was rejected by the Deans of Humanities and Graduate Studies. During its retreat in April 2023, SCLA agreed on a short list of three possible new names for the program. A vote will follow in the summer.

Comments 2024:

Following consultation with the Dean of Humanities in December 2023, it was decided to pause the search for a new program name.

Recommendation #14

Develop Areas of Specialization

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation
 ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understands that the development of areas of specialization is dependent on the implementation of recommendation #1.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)
 Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 SCLA to develop areas of specialization.	GPD	T	C	

Comments 2022:

The introduction of new members to the SCLA committee and the work of the mandate/EDID and curriculum/specialization subcommittees will be essential to continue this work of building specializations.

Comments 2023:

SCLA developed language around the research-creation option. The 2023 edition of the SCLA Handbook specifies two options: regular MRP and research-creation MRP.

Recommendation #15

Administrative Affiliation and a Diploma in SCLA

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understands the recommendation to be referring to administrative and pedagogical affiliation with the PhD in Interdisciplinary Humanities and the option for a Diploma for students in other graduate programs.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2022-23.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Added to transition document for GPD return.	Committee	T	T	T

Comments 2022:

As a 2nd Priority, action left to returning GPD. For administrative reasons, a new name for the program will be submitted to ARC before the new diploma is determined.

Comments 2023:

Priority is given to determining a new name for SCLA. During its retreat in April 2023, SCLA agreed on a short list of three possible new names for the program. A vote will follow in the summer. In 2022-2023 SCLA voted in favour of developing a research-creation option for the MRP in addition to its existing regular MRP option. SCLA is currently working on its alignment with HUMA.

Comments 2024:

SCLA is continuing consultations with HUMA.

Recommendation #16

Curriculum Renewal

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation
 ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. The Committee expects that curriculum review and renewal will be a central consideration during the revitalization process of the program. ARC considers the recommendation to be dependent on the implementation of recommendation #1.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)
 Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 SCLA committee is reviewing and reworking core courses incrementally in light of the work of the three subcommittees.	Committee	T	C	
Action #2 New team taught 5P02 will be the first aspect of program renewal for 2022-2023.	Course instructors	T	C	

Comments 2022:

This is a continuous, incremental process. SCLA retreat will provide opportunity for more developed renewal based on subcommittee work.

Comments 2023:

This is a continuous process. To streamline our course offerings, a number of SCLA courses were submitted for deletion in Fall 2022 through SGSC.

Recommendation #17

Make 5P01 a 'credit / non-credit' course

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation
 ARC considers the recommendation to be current practice.

Implementation Plan
 No action required.

Recommendation #18

Consider a retreat

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation
 ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. The Committee expects that gathering the stakeholders of the program together for a retreat would be beneficial to the future of the program.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)
 Responsible for approving: Program
 Responsible for resources: Program
 Responsible for implementation: Program
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2021-22.

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Awaiting return of GPD to call a retreat.	GPD	D	O	

Comments 2022:

Have spoken to returning GPD and explained need for a retreat.

Comments 2023:

SCLA held a retreat in August 2022. The 2023 retreat took place in April.

Comments 2024:

SCLA went through a series of meetings in Winter 2024 to discuss the future of the program and a possible association with HUMA. The SCLA committee decided to bring this discussion to MLLC (home department) and is currently awaiting feedback from MLLC.