

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Under Nipissing University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Ontario Universities Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), all programs are subject to a comprehensive review at least/at minimum every eight years to ensure that they continue to meet provincial quality assurance requirements and to support their ongoing rigour and coherence. This review was conducted under the terms and conditions of the IQAP approved by Senate on June 29, 2023 and ratified by the Quality Council on May 5, 2023

In academic years 2024-25 a program review was scheduled for Bachelor of Liberal Arts This was the 2nd program review for this program. The timeline of the review was as follows.

PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW

PROGRAM	SENATE APPROVAL DATE	PREPARED BY
Bachelor of Liberal Arts	January 16, 2026	Provost and Vice-President

A. REVIEW TIMELINE

SELF-STUDY REVIEW TIMELINE	DATE
1. Self-Study Presented to AQAPC	September 10, 2024
2. Site Visit Conducted	November 14-15, 2024
3. Reviewer's Report Received	December 2, 2024
4. Department's Response Received	January 20, 2025
5. Dean's Response Received	March 5, 2025

A. REVIEW SUMMARY

Two external reviewers conducted the review. During the in-person site visit, the reviewers met with the following groups and individuals:

Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Dean and Associate Dean of Arts and Science

Internal Review Committee

Registrar and Associate Registrars

Student Alumni

Library Executive Director and Librarians

Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies

The academic programs offered by the Department which were examined as part of the review included:

Bachelor of Liberal Science

Bachelor of Liberal Arts

The follow program strengths were noted:

The review highlights the program's flexibility, accessibility for diverse student populations, inherent interdisciplinarity, and its value for lifelong learners and mature students. This flexibility allows students to pursue a broad range of interests and career paths, preparing them to be adaptable and versatile contributors to the workforce.

Summary of review team recommendations:

Key recommendations include establishing stronger administrative support, creating a critical interdisciplinary inquiry course, recommending critical thinking and experiential learning courses, expanding online offerings, retaining the current program name with improved marketing, and tailoring marketing towards varied student groups

Status:

Due date for 2 Year Follow-up Report: 2028

Date of next Cyclical Review: 2031

B. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Below are the recommendations that require specific action as a result of the Review, along with the identification of the position or unit responsible for the action in question. Notwithstanding the position or unit identified as being responsible for specific recommendations, the Dean of the Faculty has the overall responsibility for ensuring that the recommended actions are undertaken

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE MEMBER/UNIT	PROJECTED COMPLETION
#1: Establish stronger administrative support for the program by, for example, situating the program in a willing host department or assigning a faculty member to lead the program, meanwhile assuring appropriate compensation.	Unit (BA Liberal Arts) Compensation is determined by FASBU CA and additional workload by a Chair for taking on Liberal Arts is not likely.	Unit will approach Chairs for a volunteer (2025/26).
#2: Establish a course that aims to equip students with skills in critical, interdisciplinary inquiry that promotes reflection on the purposes and value of undergraduate liberal arts education. This course would be recommended (or required) for Liberal Arts majors, and recommended also for students across the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Existing courses, such as the INTD courses, could be developed to fulfill this role.	Unit (BA Liberal Arts) It is beyond the unit's control to recommend a new course for students across the Faculty of Arts and Science.	Unit will approach Chairs in 2025/26. Consultation with the Dean regarding INTD courses will occur in 2025/26.
#3: Recommend PHIL 2506 and/or PHIL 2507 Critical Thinking course or similar course to advance the Liberal Arts degree learning outcomes reflected in these course options.	Unit (BA Liberal Arts)	Curriculum change will be submitted in 2025/26 academic year, with change in place for 2026/27.
#4: Recommend UNIV 3006 as a way to ensure an experiential learning component to the Liberal Arts program, to allow for critical self-reflection on career-integrated learning, and to develop the ability to articulate the professionally applicable skills and knowledge developed in the course of the degree.	Unit (B.Sc. Liberal Science) not in support of this recommendation	N/A
#5: Expand offerings online to enhance access to the program, while ensuring this approach can be delivered reliably. Selecting courses to be offered online should reflect the need for predictability, as well as the value of online courses as a recruitment tool for the faculty and university.	N/A	N/A
#6: Retain Liberal Arts as the name of the program. To address misgivings regarding the name, marketing materials can be revised to communicate more effectively the nature and value of the Liberal Arts degree, using it as an opportunity to showcase the breadth and depth of teaching and learning offered at the faculty. Liberal Arts is an academic term that is generally recognizable across North America; alternatives might be General Arts; Applied Arts; Liberal Studies; Multidisciplinary Studies.	Marketing	2026/27 following completion of curricular changes for recommendations 1 – 4.
#7: Enhance current marketing strategies, to reflect the implementation of these recommendations and to tailor them to those graduating from high school, mature learners who have been or are currently in the job	Marketing	2026/27 following completion of curricular changes for recommendations 1 – 4.

market, and current university students looking to complete their undergraduate degree in three years.
