

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 2024-2025 a program review was scheduled for Bachelor of Liberal Science. 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 Science	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 Sciences
- Bachelor of Liberal Arts

The following program strengths and challenges were noted:

The program serves very few students, with no more than two enrolled annually over the past decade and only three graduates, yet it provides a pathway for students to improve grades or transfer from other institutions. However, its alignment with the university's mission is limited by low enrollment.

Summary of review team recommendations:

Recommendations include allowing students to complete one minor instead of two to facilitate an "exit plan," removing restrictive Philosophy course requirements, renaming the program (e.g., to "General Science"), updating marketing materials to reflect curriculum changes and recommending UNIV 3006 Experiential Learning in Arts and Science as the equivalent to a capstone course.

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. Re-structure the program to allow students to take one minor (instead of two) plus a prescribed number of courses to complete their undergraduate degree to facilitate the use of the program as an “exit plan”. This could include a restriction on the number of lower level courses.	Unit (B.Sc. Liberal Science)	Curriculum change will be submitted in 2025/26 academic year, with change in place for 2026/27.
2. Remove the requirement of one or both of the two PHL courses currently constricting use of the program as an “exit plan”. Consider recommending one or more of these PHL courses, PHL 2716 Bio-ethics or a Critical Inquiry course, preferably one that queries the role of science in modern society, not just for this program but for all B.Sc. students.	Unit (B.Sc. Liberal Science)	Curriculum change will be submitted in 2025/26 academic year, with change in place for 2026/27.
3. Rename the program to reflect these proposed changes; one suggestion would be “General Science”.	Unit (B.Sc. Liberal Science)	Curriculum change will be submitted in 2025/26 academic year, with change in place for 2026/27.
4. Require or recommend UNIV 3006 Experiential Learning in Arts and Science as the equivalent to a capstone course, ensuring experiential learning and the opportunity to build a professional portfolio.	Unit (B.Sc. Liberal Science) not in support of this recommendation	N/A
5. Maintain current marketing strategy but update materials in accordance with modified curriculum.	Marketing	2026/27 following completion of curricular changes for recommendations 1 through 3.

