

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 Arts – Political 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 Arts – Political Science	January 16, 2026	Provost and Vice-President

A. REVIEW TIMELINE

SELF-STUDY REVIEW TIMELINE	DATE
1. Self-Study Presented to AQAPC	November 1, 2024
2. Site Visit Conducted	January 13-22, 2025
3. Reviewer's Report Received	March 10, 2025
4. Department's Response Received	September 29, 2025
5. Dean's Response Received	November 3, 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

Registrar and Associate Registrars

Internal Review Committee

Library Executive Director and Librarian

Current Students

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

Bachelor of Arts – Political Science

The follow program strengths were noted:

The Political Science program is recognized for its high quality, particularly in the subfield of Political Theory, supported by a small but expert and committed full-time faculty. The Conflict Resolution courses are innovative and popular, and the program offers experiential learning opportunities through partnerships such as with the Royal Military College.

Summary of review team recommendations:

Key recommendations include developing sustainable course offerings in Canadian Public Administration and Social Science Research Methods, preserving and expanding Conflict Studies faculty expertise, enhancing experiential learning opportunities, creating sub-discipline streams with recognized specializations, increasing upper-year electives through cross-listings, updating the program website for recruitment, and supporting Political Science as a teachable subject in Education. These recommendations require collaboration among departments and administrative support.

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
Develop regularly offered courses in social science methods, potentially by cross-listing existing courses from Sociology.	Political Science	2026/27
Propose cross appointment in conflict resolution with cognate discipline such as Indigenous Studies, Sociology, School of Business.	Political Science	December 2025
Increase student access to internships and other experiential and Work-Integrated Learning.	Dean of Arts & Science/Political Science	2027/28
Cross-list and then re-code courses in GESJ and SWLF to accommodate program changes.	Political Science	2026/27
Include alumni profiles on program website.	Dean of Arts & Science/Marketing	2026/27
Explore offering of Political Science as a teachable subject in Education program	Political Science/Dean of EPS	2026/27

