

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 2018-2019, a program review was scheduled for Criminal Justice. 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 IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE	SEPTEMBER 13, 2019	PROVOST & VICE-PRESIDENT

A. REVIEW TIMELINE

SELF-STUDY REVIEW TIMELINE	DATE
1. Self-Study Presented to AQAPC	
2. Site Visit Conducted	
3. Reviewer's Report Received	
4. Department's Response Received	
5. Dean's Response Received	

A. REVIEW SUMMARY

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

- Associate Dean, Applied and Professional Studies
- CRJS Faculty
- Criminal Justice Student Association, Honour Society, and Alumni Representatives
- Registrar
- Harris Learning Library – Executive Director and Librarian

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

- Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

The follow program strengths were noted:

Criminal Justice offers a unique and innovative program that blends academic study with practical experience, allowing students to progress from a broad first-year foundation into specialized streams in later years. Options such as Corrections and Policing are particularly valued, as they include hands-on practica through a nearby college, giving students job-ready skills for the criminal justice field. Students express strong satisfaction and pride in their experience, and alumni speak highly of the program and faculty, with some continuing into graduate studies and even returning as faculty members.

Summary of review team recommendations:

The recommendations call for strengthening the School's strategic alignment, identity, and academic standards while enhancing program clarity and coherence. This includes clearly integrating the university's strategic plan into curriculum design, updating vision and mission statements to meaningfully reflect Indigenization, equity, and inclusivity, and renaming the School to better reflect its focus on Criminal Justice. Academic expectations should be raised through stricter honours admission and graduation requirements, mandatory GPA standards, and clearer program pathways, including distinct applied and academic degree streams and expanded options such as majors or minors.

Curricular improvements focus on expanding and refining course offerings, including adding advanced seminars for honours students, maintaining applied capstone experiences, increasing interdisciplinary and cross-listed electives, and revising specific courses to better reflect content and priorities such as Indigenous perspectives and vulnerable populations. Enhanced academic advising is recommended, particularly for students considering graduate studies, along with improved communication about opportunities and program requirements.

Operational and resource-related recommendations emphasize increasing full-time faculty hiring, ensuring core courses are taught by permanent staff, improving administrative roles (such as making advising and placement positions permanent), and expanding online course offerings. Additional priorities include strengthening research visibility, supporting faculty expertise, improving facilities and program visibility on campus, and increasing enrollment through expanded course sections and program capacity. Overall, the recommendations aim to improve program quality, student pathways, faculty support, and the School's profile within and beyond the university.

Status:**Due date for 2 Year Follow-up Report: 2021****Date of next Cyclical Review: 2025**

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
#1,2 - Position paper on the implementation of principles of indigenous education, and equity, diversity and inclusion	Department to report to Dean	March 2020
# 7,8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26 - Review curriculum with the view of offering minors, new streams, and cross-disciplinary opportunities	Department	May 2019
#24, 33 - Develop narrative to celebrate research, teaching , and scholarship within the unit.	Collaborate with Dean of Research & Dean of Teaching	Ongoing
#27 - Revise grad student placement protocol	Department with Dean of Research & Graduate Studies	December 2019
#31 - Make a decision on the physical space of the School	Department with Facilities	December 2019