Office of the Provost & Vice President Academic
Nipissing University
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NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

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 Education. This was the 1st program review for the MEd and PhD, and 2nd for the BEd. The timeline of the review was as follows.

PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW

PROGRAM	SENATE APPROVAL DATE	PREPARED BY
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION MASTER OF EDUCATION PHD IN EDUCATION	SEPTEMBER 13, 2019	PROVOST & VICE-PRESIDENT

A. REVIEW TIMELINE

SELF-STUDY REVIEW TIMELINE	DATE
1. Self-Study Presented to AQAPC	October 29, 2018
2. Site Visit Conducted	November 29-30, 2018
3. Reviewer's Report Received	January 23, 2019
4. Department's Response Received	March 20, 2019
5. Dean's Response Received	April 29, 2019

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 & Vice-President, Academic and Research
- Bachelor of Education students
- Dean of Education & Professional Studies
- Associate Dean of Schulich School of Education
- BEd faculty
- BEd Chairs, Chair of Graduate Studies in Education, Principal of Indigenous programs
- Dean, Graduate Studies & Research

- Harris Learning Library – Librarian
- Registrar
- PhD and MEd faculty
- PhD and MEd students

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

- Bachelor of Education
- Master of Education (Curriculum & Leadership)
- PhD in Education (Educational Sustainability)

The follow program strengths were noted:

The BEd, MEd, and PhD programs at Nipissing University are well aligned with the institution's mission and meet established academic standards. Their structure, admission requirements, and completion rates are comparable to similar programs. The BEd program is particularly strong in offering hands-on, practical learning opportunities that connect theory to teaching practice, supported by early and integrated placements, portfolio-based assignments, and action research projects. Students benefit from a focus on equity, inclusion, Indigenous education, and cross-curricular learning, as well as meaningful opportunities to provide feedback that informs program improvements.

The graduate programs are also of high quality, with research-active faculty offering diverse expertise and a wide range of course options. Strong support systems, such as progression reports, comprehensive exams, funding opportunities, and residency support, help ensure student success. Additional strengths include active faculty engagement in professional communities and valuable learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Overall, the programs are considered robust, supportive, and of appropriate academic quality.

Summary of review team recommendations:

The recommendations call for proactive planning to address upcoming faculty retirements and ensure continued program capacity, alongside improvements to the BEd program such as making classroom management training accessible to all students. They also emphasize strengthening the integration of Indigenous education and climate change across the curriculum, rather than treating them as optional or isolated topics. Additional program enhancements include refining delivery for Indigenous teacher education programs, expanding professional workshops for students, improving mechanisms for practicum feedback, and considering adjustments to grading practices to ensure meaningful assessment.

For graduate programs, the recommendations focus on strengthening structure, clarity, and distinctiveness. These include introducing defined concentrations in the MEd to help students develop expertise, clarifying expectations between master's and doctoral students in shared courses, and reinforcing the PhD program's focus on sustainability through clearer themes and dedicated coursework. They also suggest enhancing supervision through mentoring and professional development for faculty, and creating formal professional skills programming for graduate students to prepare them for diverse career paths.

Finally, the report highlights the importance of expanding recruitment and support for international students, including considering more in-person learning options, and incorporating Indigenous perspectives more explicitly into graduate curricula. Overall, the recommendations aim to improve program coherence, inclusivity, student support, and long-term sustainability across all levels.

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 - Faculty renewal plan	PVPAR	Annual
#2,3,4 and 15 - Curriculum changes	Department	Using NU-IQAP to change
#5 - ITEP and TILSL	Department	Review supports in 2019-2020
#6 - PD on professionalism	Department, Dean	Develop program for students at NU by June 2020
#7 - Student feedback on practica	Department, Dean	Ongoing 2019-2020
#8 - Grading	Department, Dean	Ongoing 2019-2020
#9, 10 - Alignment of learning outcomes with degree expectations	Department	Report to VPAR by Dec 2019
#11 - Educational sustainability	Department	Report to VPAR by Dec 2019
#12 - PD programme for supervisors	Department, Dean	Develop a program for students at NU by June 2020
#13 - PD programme for students	Department, Dean	Develop a program for students at NU by June 2020
#14 - International Recruitment as per Annual Academic Plan 2019-20	PVPAR and Dean of EPS	International strategy