

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 2022-2023 a program review was scheduled for Child and Family Studies. 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
CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES	DECEMBER 8, 2023	PROVOST & VICE PRESIDENT

A. REVIEW TIMELINE

SELF-STUDY REVIEW TIMELINE	DATE
1. Self-Study Presented to AQAPC	October 21, 2022
2. Site Visit Conducted	January 17-19, 2023
3. Reviewer's Report Received	February 23, 2023
4. Department's Response Received	April 28, 2023
5. Dean's Response Received	April 28, 2023

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

Dean & Associate Dean of Arts & Science

Registrar & Associate Registrars

Internal Review Committee

Members of Child & Family Studies Department

Current Students

Librarian

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

Bachelor of Arts – Child and Family Studies

The follow program strengths were noted:

The program offers flexible pathways to graduation, allowing students to tailor courses and applied learning to their interests while earning certificates that enhance employability. It aligns closely with the university's Education stream, particularly teacher education, and its embedded concurrent stream strongly prepares students for postgraduate study in the field of Education. The program also supports and strengthens other offerings across the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Summary of review team recommendations:

The recommendations emphasize strengthening the program's capacity, relevance, and impact through targeted investments and reforms. Key priorities include hiring additional tenure-stream faculty, providing dedicated administrative support, and enhancing Indigenous-focused curriculum across courses and learning outcomes. The program should modernize delivery through online, hybrid, and intensive formats; expand experiential learning such as internships and co-op placements; and revise outdated elective categorizations and course approval timelines. Further recommendations include widening access to certificates for non-program and community learners, positioning the program more clearly for careers beyond education, particularly in health and community services, supporting faculty research through community partnerships, and enriching the program by thoughtfully including international students with appropriate dedicated supports.

Status:

Due date for 2 Year Follow-up Report: 2025

Date of next Cyclical Review: 2030

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
Recommendation #5: Urgent Curriculum Review; this will have implications for Recommendations #5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11	Chair & Dean	February 1, 2024
Recommendation #3: Indigenous commitments in CHFS; this will have implications for #1 and 5	Chair & Dean	November 1, 2023