

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 2023-24 a program review was scheduled for Bachelor of Arts - Philosophy. 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 -Philosophy	May 10, 2024	Provost and Vice-President

A. REVIEW TIMELINE

SELF-STUDY REVIEW TIMELINE	DATE
1. Self-Study Presented to AQAPC	June 23, 2023
2. Site Visit Conducted	October 16, 18 & 20, 2023
3. Reviewer's Report Received	November 22, 2023
4. Department's Response Received	January 2, 2024
5. Dean's Response Received	February 13, 2024

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

Executive Director, Library Services and Electronic Resources Librarian

Philosophy Department Faculty

Current Students

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 Arts - Philosophy

The follow program strengths were noted:

Overall, we have both been impressed by the quality of the Philosophy program, especially in light of its dwindling resources. The program members have done a lot with a little. Not only have the members maintained a quality undergraduate program, graduating students who have gone on to be successful in graduate programs, professional programs, and in the work environment, but they have provided important courses to other programs at Nipissing.

Summary of review team recommendations:

- Hire at least one new full-time Philosophy professor (ideally two) to keep the program strong and diverse.
- Keep the Philosophy major going—having more faculty helps keep it vibrant within the University.
- Update the program requirements to be more flexible, focusing on course numbers and areas rather than specific classes, except for must-have courses.
- Let capable fourth- and maybe third-year students work as teaching assistants in big first-year classes—this gives them experience and builds connections.
- Set up book prizes for student awards, possibly with alumni support, to celebrate achievements and help students build their CVs.

Status:

Due date for 2 Year Follow-up Report: 2026

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
<p>#1 - we recommend at least one full-time, tenure-track hiring (ideally two). The University has established a robust process for making position requests which are reviewed annually as part of the budget cycle. It is vital that position requests are linked to strategic priorities, and there is a case to be made by Philosophy for a position to reinforce expertise in Ethics.</p>	Faculty in conjunction with QAPI, Registrar, Dean	October 1, 2024
<p>#2 - We therefore recommend Philosophy maintaining the major. Insofar as Recommendation #2 echoes Recommendation #1, I encourage all faculty with expertise in Philosophy to work collectively to support innovative initiatives to ensure that students continue to benefit from a university education that centres Philosophy.</p>	Faculty in conjunction with QAPI, Registrar, Dean	October 1, 2024
<p>#3- maintain its major would be to re-structure the program requirements such that, for the most part, instead of naming specific courses, they specify taking a certain number of courses at various levels or in various areas. I look forward to seeing how Recommendation #3 will be mapped out. I have concerns that any quest for “flexibility” be counterbalanced by a recognition of disciplinary rigor.</p>	Faculty in conjunction with QAPI, Registrar, Dean	October 1, 2024
<p>#4 - Consider ways in which promising 4th (possibly 3rd) year students might be able to help out in larger first-year courses as teaching assistants. The Dean to develop the business case for this initiatives, and for other initiatives that reward students in the upper years who are thriving in their courses.</p>	Dean in conjunction with faculty	September 1, 2024
<p>#5 - We recommend developing book prizes for student awards, possibly with some funding from alumni Encourage the Dean to reflect on this recommendation for degree programs across the Faculty.</p>	Dean in conjunction with faculty	September 1, 2024

