

## 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 Bachelor of Arts - Religions & Cultures. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> program review for this program. The timeline of the review was as follows.

### PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW

PROGRAM	SENATE APPROVAL DATE	PREPARED BY
RELIGIONS AND CULTURES	JULY 14, 2023	PROVOST & VICE PRESIDENT

### A. REVIEW TIMELINE

SELF-STUDY REVIEW TIMELINE	DATE
1. Self-Study Presented to AQAPC	Nov. 25, 2022
2. Site Visit Conducted	Sept. 13, 15, and 27, 2022
3. Reviewer's Report Received	Feb. 1, 2023
4. Department's Response Received	May 2023
5. Dean's Response Received	May 2023

### A. REVIEW SUMMARY

**Two external reviewers conducted the review. During the virtual site visit, the reviewers met with the following groups and individuals:**

Provost & Vice-President

Internal Review Committee

Dean and Associate Dean of Arts & Science

Registrar and Associate Registrar

Library Executive Director and Librarian

Religions and Cultures Department

Religions and Cultures Students

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

Bachelor of Arts – Religions and Cultures

**The follow program strengths were noted:**

The review highlights the program's exceptional strengths in innovation, academic rigor, and responsiveness to student needs. Faculty demonstrate notable creativity through interdisciplinary teaching and programming that support global citizenship and deep understanding of cultural and religious diversity. The department's commitment to student development is further reflected in forward-looking initiatives, such as professional certificates that extend the program's impact to contemporary professional fields.

**Summary of review team recommendations:**

The recommendations encourage the department to build on its existing strengths by maintaining strong interdisciplinary and first-year teaching involvement, expanding access and visibility across the university. They emphasize exploring new certificate programs linked to health, healing, and end-of-life care, as well as aligning more intentionally with Indigenous student growth and the program's social justice focus. Additional priorities include strengthening departmental stability through a new full-time faculty position, with consideration to existing part-time faculty who have considerably contributed to the program to date, and continuing efforts to foster a strong sense of community among students pursuing Religions and Cultures studies.

**Status:**

**Due date for 2 Year Follow-up Report: 2025**

**Date of next Cyclical Review: 2029**

**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
Based on Recommendation #2, I support exploration of college pathways and of considering microcredential development outside of program offerings.	Unit and Dean	April 2024
Based on Recommendation #3, I support RLCT considering combining programming with GESJ. There are many intersections, and a combined program could be very attractive to students.	Unit and Dean	April 2024