Ongoing Improvement Progress Report

Instructions and Report Template

As part of the protocols outlined in Western's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), to facilitate the continuous improvement of academic programs between review cycles, in connection with the Final Assessment Report (FAR) and Implementation Plan, a monitoring process will include an Ongoing Improvement Progress Report. The outcomes of this report will be considered as part of the program's next cyclical review.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the operationalization of the implementation plan following a Cyclical Program Review (or the review of a New Program). This should include a brief summary of actions taken by the Program and the Dean's Office since the completion of the review (usually about three years), as well as an update on the stage of implementation for all applicable items. These include:

- whether the action item(s) are in progress, complete or no longer applicable (with a brief explanation);
- the timelines of each item and how they are progressing or expected to progress, particularly if they are diverting from original timelines in the FAR and Implementation Plan, and;
- a short description of any other program developments and improvements that have taken place following the review.
- For new programs only, an evaluation of the initial administration and resourcing of the program.

The following report template has been created for the program to report on progress made regarding recommendations presented in the Implementation Plan, and any other relevant program developments and enhancements.

- The program will complete the template and submit it to the faculty Dean's Office for sign-off.
- The program will then submit the completed Ongoing Improvement and Progress Report to the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement (OAQE). Reports are due by June 30.
  - o The OAQE will present all Ongoing Improvement and Progress Reports to SUPR-U/G for approval. Approvals, or any follow-up questions/concerns, will be communicated to the program and Dean's Office by the OAQE.
  - o It should be noted that as per the requirements of the province's Quality Council, progress reports will be posted on the [reports page](#) of the OAQE website.

Ongoing Improvement Progress Report

Philosophy, BA / King's University College

Program	Philosophy, BA	Faculty / Affiliated University College	King's University College
Approval Dates of the Review	SUPR-U: February 24, 2021 SCAPA: March 3, 2021 Senate: March 12, 2021	Year of the Next Review	*2027-2028*
Link to the Programs Final Assessment Report (FAR)		*https://www.uwo.ca/pvp/vpacademic/iqap/academic_programs/iqap_reports/kings_undergrad/2020%20Kings%20Philosophy%20Program%20Review.pdf*	
If applicable, submission of follow-up report(s)		*Not applicable*	

	Name	Signature	Date
Program Chair/Director	John Heng		June 22, 2023
Dean (or delegate)	Robert A. Ventresca		June 24, 2023

Progress Update on the Implementation Plan

Recommendation #1	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
Develop courses that respond to and correspond with other programs.	Faculty workshops across programs and campuses	Chair of the Program Academic Dean	September 2022

Recommendation Implemented

☑ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially

If no, or partially, is implementation on schedule with the timeline? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Progress

What specific actions have been taken?

1. The Centre for Philosophy and Culture, which is associated with the Department of Philosophy at King's, organized a conference "Life Beyond the Anthropocene" on March 17-18, 2023 to discuss the current environmental crisis. The conference involved scholars from various programs at King's (Philosophy, Religious Studies, Social Justice and Peace, Modern Languages), Western's Department of Philosophy and Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, and international scholars from a range of disciplines, cultural, and religious traditions.

2. Our department has developed courses that are cross listed in other programs at King's: e.g., PHL 2242F/G (Philosophy of the Earth) and PHL 3244 (Planetary Ethics and Social Transformations) in Social Justice and Peace, PHL 2272F/G (Bioethics and Disability) in Disabilities Studies, PHL 2293A/B (Conditions for Analytical Thought and Decision Making) in the Analytics and Decision Science

program of the School of Management, Economics, and Mathematics. PHL 1901E (Foundations in the New Liberal Arts) is linked to similar courses in English and History. Our Social and Political Thought modules cross list courses in Political Science, Social Justice and Peace, and Religious Studies.

Next Steps (if applicable)

What actions remain? Is there further follow-up?

1. Our department and the Centre for Philosophy and Culture will continue to organize conferences that will bring together faculty from various programs and campuses to discuss important questions of the day.

2. We will continue to work with other programs to create cross listed courses of shared interest, as well as opportunities for faculty members teaching those courses across programs to meet periodically.

Additional Comments

If applicable

Recommendation #2	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
Maintain some online course offerings.	Evaluate the strength of specific online courses and their appeal to students.	Chair of the Program Academic Dean	September 2022

Recommendation Implemented

☑ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially

If no, or partially, is implementation on schedule with the timeline? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Progress

What specific actions have been taken?

1. Based on strong enrolment and positive student reviews from a trial of several online courses or online sections of courses—e.g., PHL 1361E (Finding Happiness), 1120F/G (Power, Social Politics, and Culture), 2130A/B (Introduction to Existentialism), 2270 (Canadian Judicial Thinking), 2235F/G (Philosophy of Film), 2268F/G (Cyberethics in CyberSpace), and 2550F/G (Gender and Sex in the Digital Age), our Department commits to continuing to offer these courses online.

2. A new online course—PHL 1902A/B (Thinking Well)—was introduced for 2023-24. Enrolment trends and student reviews will be monitored.

Next Steps (if applicable)

Additional Comments

As part of the 10th Academic Review, the Academic Dean will be recommending a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility of developing an online learning strategy at King's, as part of a wider academic priority to enhance accessibility of university education and diversify the range of online courses to include topics in the arts and humanities which are central to King's identity and mission.

Recommendation #3	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
Enhance diversity of perspectives with course offerings.	Faculty workshops and intentional multiyear scheduling to maximize available courses.	Chair of the Program Academic Dean	Ongoing

Recommendation Implemented

☑ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ Partially

If no, or partially, is implementation on schedule with the timeline? ☐ Yes   ☐ No

Progress

What specific actions have been taken?

Our department has introduced courses in non-Western philosophies, building in multiyear scheduling in two ways: (a) creating courses across years—e.g., PHL 1050F/G (Non-Western Philosophies) and PHL1170F/G (Philosophy of Zen) lead to 2nd-, 3rd-, and 4th-year courses in Indigenous Philosophy, Japanese Philosophy, and Chinese Philosophy; (b) offering some of these courses on a 2- or 3-year cycle so that we can maximize the number of such courses.

Next Steps (if applicable)

Additional Comments

As part of the 10ᵗʰ Academic Review, which will be presented in Fall 2023, the Academic Dean will be engaging all academic programs and departments at King's in a comprehensive review of curriculum, pedagogies, and academic administrative structures. A comprehensive academic strategic plan will flow from this review mandating that all academic departments continue to explore ways to diversity course offerings, including ways to integrate Indigenous voices and perspectives. The plan envisions ways of reimagining traditional liberal arts disciplines, including Philosophy, that are essential to the unique identity and mission of King's, and a premise of differentiation under the terms of the affiliation agreement with Western University. The academic strategic plan will include concrete and realistic timelines and accountabilities for implementation.

Note: The total number of expandable text boxes will be dependent on the number of prioritized recommendations appearing in the program's most recent Final Assessment Report (FAR).

Continuous Program Enhancement
What additional initiatives or changes has the program been working on in relation to continuous program improvement? 1. Ongoing professional development for members of our department, including our part-time members, is a priority. 2. We are introducing senior-student mentors for first-year students in Philosophy. 3. We are planning more ways to incorporate experiential learning in our courses and programs, and to connect students to the broader community.