

Revisions to the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP)

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UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Quality Council Audit

U of T has:

“embraced quality assurance to maintain the high standards of their programs, and there is active engagement by people at every level of the institution.”

“demonstrated a significant dedication to the often complex and demanding work of developing quality programs, providing an excellent student learning experience, and maintaining the engagement of faculty, staff, and students in a large-scale educational environment

Audit Findings

11 Recommendations to Improve:

- Document tracking and retention
- Process completeness and transparency
- Engagement of faculty, students and staff
- Communication about quality assurance activities

6 Suggestions to enhance, clarify or make more self-evident:

- existing processes, “building on the current strong commitment to quality assurance”

UTQAP Revisions - Overview

Clarification of Existing Process

- “Evaluation Criteria” are required
- “Internal responses”
- Reviewer/appraiser Nomination process
- Guidance around self-study engagement
- Removal of sections describing internal Quality Council process
- “appraiser” vs “reviewer”
- Closer user of QAF language

Changes to Process

- Specify process for monitoring new programs and review recommendations
- AP&P Reading groups access self-studies
- Additions to compendium information
- Remove desk audit option for new program appraisals

Other Changes (Not Audit Related)

- Ontario changes to “Collaborative Specialization” (formerly “Collaborative Program”)
- Update diagrams
- Update formatting (error correction; accessibility)

Self-Studies for AP&P Reading Groups

Recommendation 8: Revise the UTQAP to ensure that institutional peers (in this case the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs) review and assess the self-studies, the reviewers' reports, and the responses to them so as to satisfy QAF 4.2.5 a.

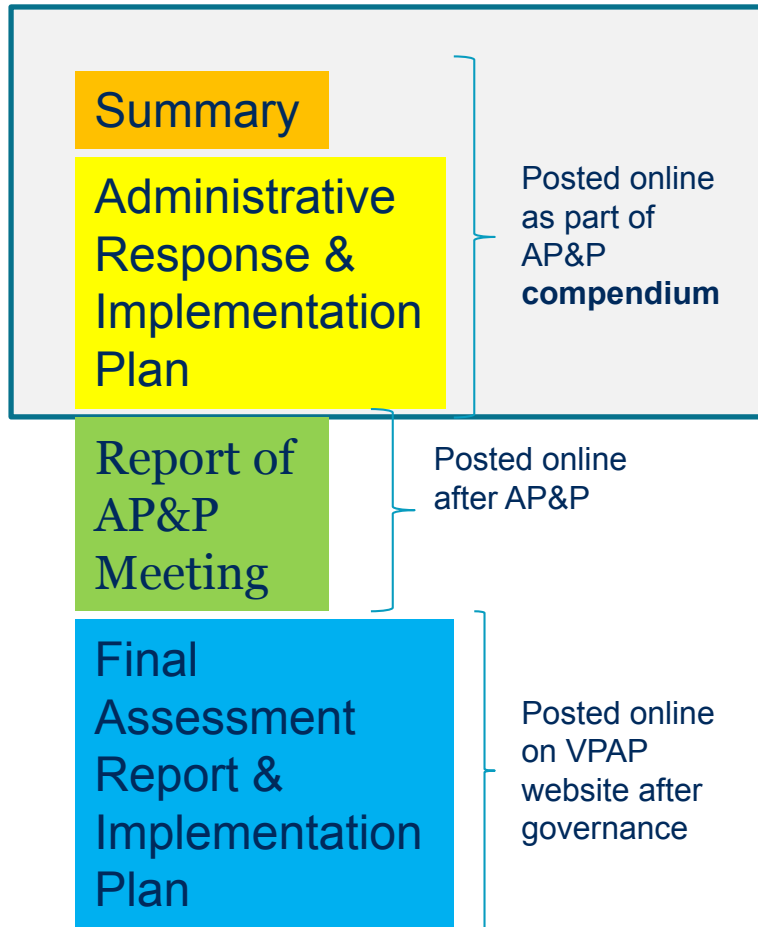
AP&P Compendium Changes

Recommendation 9: Move the writing and review of the Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan for Cyclical Program Reviews to an earlier stage in the quality assurance process

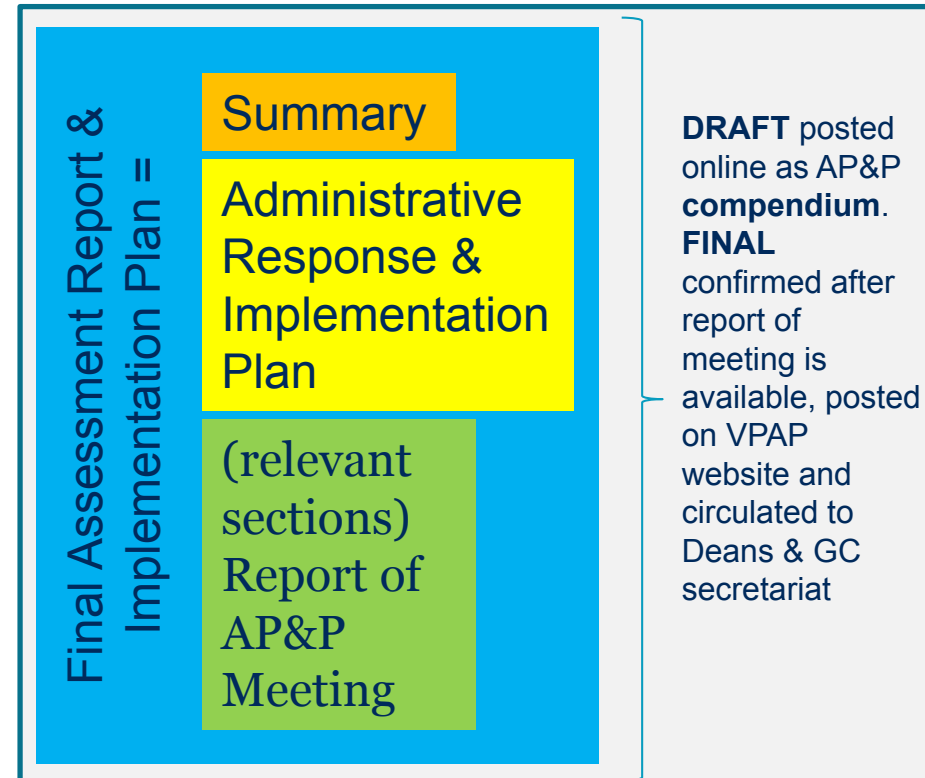
Recommendation 10: Revise the UTQAP to specify the processes for distributing the Final Assessment Report and the Implementation Plan within the University. QAF 4.2.6.a

AP&P Compendium Changes

Current



New



Monitoring of New Programs & Review Recommendations

Recommendation 4:

- Modify the UTQAP to make explicit how the progress on Implementation Plans for Cyclical Program Reviews is monitored and how new programs are monitored as they are put in place, as per QAF 4.2.6 c) and QAF 2.4.3.

New Program Monitoring: 2.6.3

It is the responsibility of the Dean, in consultation with the head of the relevant academic units, to monitor student enrolment and success in the program, as well as resource allocation and program administration. Ongoing assessment of the program will take place as outlined in the new program proposal.

Midway between the program's effective date and the date of the first review, the Dean will provide a brief report to the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs on student enrolment and success, resource allocation and program administration, and the findings of program assessments conducted as outlined in the new program proposal. (Note: a report is not required for programs that will be reviewed within four years of their effective date.)

As part of the annual academic review process, the Office of the Vice-President and Provost works with Deans' Offices to review the quality and performance of all program offerings and address any areas of concern.

Review Implementation Monitoring: 5.8.1

The Dean's response includes an implementation plan, which will describe:

1. Any changes in organization, policy or governance that would be necessary to meet the recommendations;
2. The resources, financial and otherwise, that would be provided in supporting the implementation of selected recommendations, and who will provide them; and,
3. A proposed timeline for the implementation of any of those recommendations, and who will be responsible for acting on them.
4. A proposed timeline for monitoring the implementation of those recommendations, which will include a brief report from the Dean to the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs due midway between the year of the last and next site visits.

Other UTQAP Changes

- Remove provision for desk audit of new undergraduate programs
- Updates to reflect changes to “Collaborative Specializations”
- Revised diagrams
- Accessible formatting
- Addition of combined degree program, dual degree program, double degree program to the list of major modifications
- Adjustments to reflect changes in administrative portfolios

Next Steps

- After Cycle 4: Revised UTQAP submitted to Quality Council for ratification
- Cycle 5 (April 2): reading groups have access to self-study; new FAR/IP format (reflecting new admin response content)

Questions?