



FOR INFORMATION

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OPEN SESSION

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Mark Schmuckler, Acting Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
CONTACT INFO: (416) 978-0490, vp.academicprograms@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: See Sponsor
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 28, 2021 for May 5, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report on Graduate Collaborative Specialization Reviews, 2020-21

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) [Terms of Reference](#) (Sections 3 and 4.9) states that “The Committee...has general responsibility...for monitoring, the quality of education and the research activities of the University. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Committee works to ensure the excellent quality of academic programs by...monitoring reviews of existing programs...The Committee receives annual reports or such more frequent regular reports as it may determine, on matters within its purview, including reports on the ...[r]eviews of academic units and programs.”

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **Committee on Academic Policy and Programs** [For Information] (May 5, 2021)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Governing Council approved the [Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units](#) in 2010. The *Policy* outlines University-wide principles for the approval of proposed new academic programs and review of existing programs and units. Its goal is to align the University’s quality assurance processes with the Province’s Quality Assurance Framework

(QAF) through establishing the authority of the *University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process* (UTQAP).

The scope of the UTQAP includes collaborative specializations. In line with the [QAF](#) definition, the University understands a collaborative specialization to be “an intra-university graduate field of study that provides an additional multidisciplinary experience for students enrolled in and completing the degree requirements of one of a number of approved masters and/or PhD programs. Students meet the admission requirements of and register in the participating (or ‘home’) program but complete, in addition to the degree requirements of that program, the additional requirements specified by the Collaborative Specialization. The degree conferred is that of the home program. The completion of the Collaborative Specialization is indicated by a transcript notation indicating the additional specialization.” The learning outcomes of a collaborative specialization are in addition to those supported by the home program.

In the fall of 2015 the [Guidelines](#) governing these offerings were revised, establishing the lead Dean of the collaborative specialization as the review Commissioning Officer; previously the Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies commissioned collaborative program reviews. Because of the unique nature of collaborative specializations, their review process focuses on the quality of the “additional multidisciplinary experience” that collaborative specializations provide, over and above the experience associated with the home program. Reviews emphasize elements that are critical to determining ongoing quality of collaborative specializations at the University of Toronto, including:

1. Clarity and appropriateness of requirements
2. Evidence of successful attainment of learning outcomes
3. Evidence of ongoing need and demand
4. Continuing support of participating programs and supporting units (e.g. renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA))

The Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Graduate Collaborative Specializations was previously submitted to AP&P on May 6, 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS:

One external review of a collaborative specialization commissioned by its lead Dean was conducted in 2020-21. This is a review of the Collaborative Specialization in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (CSAMP) led by the Faculty of Arts & Science. The submission to AP&P consists of a table containing a summary of the review outcomes.

The review confirmed the collaborative specialization’s vitality, the appropriateness of its program requirements, and that its learning outcomes are in addition to those supported by its students’ home programs. To address student feedback regarding some opaqueness of program requirements, the CSAMP Director plans to construct and communicate a clear timeline for students, in consultation with the Program Committee and broader faculty. The MOA was recommended for renewal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Annual Report on Graduate Collaborative Specialization Reviews, 2020-21

University of Toronto
Annual Report on Graduate Collaborative Specialization Reviews, Cycle 6, 2020-21
 Collaborative Specializations Reviews are Commissioned by the Dean of the Lead Faculty

Collaborative Specialization (CS) Definition: "an intra-university graduate field of study that provides an additional multidisciplinary experience for students enrolled in and completing the degree requirements of one of a number of approved masters and/or PhD programs. Students meet the admission requirements of and register in the participating (or 'home') program but complete, in addition to the degree requirements of that program, the additional requirements specified by the Collaborative Specialization. The degree conferred is that of the home program. The completion of the Collaborative Specialization is indicated by a transcript notation indicating the additional specialization." ([Quality Assurance Framework](#))

The learning outcomes of a collaborative specialization are in addition to those supported by the home program.

Collaborative Specialization & Lead Faculty	Participating Programs & Degrees	Appropriateness of Collaborative Specialization Requirements	Vitality of Collaborative Specialization	Other Strengths or Challenges Identified	Review Outcome
<p>Ancient and Medieval Philosophy</p> <p>Lead Faculty: Arts and Science</p> <p>Date of Summary Assessment Report: April 12, 2021</p>	<p>Classics – PhD Medieval Studies – PhD Philosophy – PhD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collaborative specialization meets the requirement that 30% of the courses taken are in the area of the specialization. • Students in the specialization share in a common learning experience through participation in the required proseminar (AMP2000Y); its principal objective is to improve students' abilities to translate and interpret ancient and medieval philosophical text. • Students in Medieval Studies and Classics must also complete two non-historical half courses in philosophy. • Additionally, students must gain competence in two non-English modern languages and Latin, Greek or Arabic; this is assessed through examinations and a paper involving translation from one of the historic languages (these are already part of the doctoral requirements in Medieval Studies and Classics, but not Philosophy). • Student feedback is very effusive about the structure of the program in its current configuration, though students do note some opaqueness to program requirements, as well as offer some suggested revisions (allowing historical philosophy courses to count for non-Philosophy students, and requiring ancient specialists to take a seminar in medieval philosophy, and vice versa). • To address concerns and suggestions, the specialization Director plans to construct and communicate a clear timeline for students in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSAMP is by all accounts a vibrant 'hub for research and instruction in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy.' • The program sponsors an impressive array of workshops, seminars, and conferences. It also welcomes visiting faculty for short or extended stays and has postdoctoral students. Students in the program have also organized their own work-in-progress workshop. Student feedback on these aspects of their experiences was positive. They were especially enthusiastic about a small grant program that offers small travel grants for students attending conferences. • Enrolment counts reported by the unit indicate a resurgence in enrolments. • Course enrolments in the common required proseminar course, AMP2000Y have been steady. • The Collaborative Specialization appears fairly robust in terms of total enrolment and class size in AMP2000Y, though the the core proseminar has not attracted any Medieval Studies students since 2014-15, at least in terms of official ROSI enrolments. • As cross-disciplinary student participation is important to the vitality of any Collaborative Specialization, CSAMP leadership should work to encourage student participation and (official) enrolment across all participating units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy students did express concerns about the ancient language requirements. This concern was also raised in the previous review, which recommended that the program reconsider the appropriateness of the language requirements if time-to-completion or attrition rose. • Attrition and completion do not appear to have been a significant issue for students in the program since the previous review. This suggests that the extra language requirements for Philosophy students have not acted as a barrier to their progress through the program. • Unclear whether time-to-completion is changing for CSAMP students; for future reports it would be useful to include data on TTC. • 71 percent (15 of 21) of graduating students landed academic appointments. • The collaborative specialization in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy capitalizes on the unparalleled strengths of participating faculty across the contributing disciplines. It offers students a rich, deep and rewarding interdisciplinary educational experience, which students' value and appreciate. • Financially, CSAMP has benefited from the research support from two CRC Professorships 	<p>MOA is recommended for renewal.</p>

University of Toronto
Annual Report on Graduate Collaborative Specialization Reviews, Cycle 6, 2020-21
 Collaborative Specializations Reviews are Commissioned by the Dean of the Lead Faculty

Collaborative Specialization & Lead Faculty	Participating Programs & Degrees	Appropriateness of Collaborative Specialization Requirements	Vitality of Collaborative Specialization	Other Strengths or Challenges Identified	Review Outcome
		consultation with the Program Committee and broader faculty. • Overall, the structure and requirements of the CSAMP program appear to be appropriate and support the learning outcomes very well.	• The three core Units remain committed to the Collaborative Specialization. Indeed, Philosophy has recently added to its faculty complement, with several appointments in the field of ancient philosophy.	and an endowment in the Philosophy department. As one CRC is set to expire in 2022, CSAMP leadership is mindful of the potential shortfall that may arise if they do not find alternate research funding sources.	