



FOR INFORMATION

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OPEN SESSION

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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PRESENTER: See above.

CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 30, 2024 for May 8, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 12

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report on the Reviews of Graduate Collaborative Specializations: 2023-24

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 8, 2024)**

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 (see 6.2.2). 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 Annual Report on the Reviews of Graduate Collaborative Specializations was previously submitted to AP&P on May 4, 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Four external reviews of collaborative specializations commissioned by their lead Dean were conducted in 2023-24. These were the reviews of the Collaborative Specialization in Addiction Studies, the Collaborative Specialization in Global Health (U of T Global Scholar), both led by the Dalla Lana School of Public Health; the Collaborative Specialization in Biomedical Engineering, led by the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering; the Collaborative Specialization in Knowledge Media Design, led by the Faculty of Information. The submission to AP&P consists of a table containing a summary of the review outcomes.

The reviews of the Collaborative Specialization in Addiction Studies, the Collaborative Specialization in Global Health (U of T Global Scholar), the Collaborative Specialization in Knowledge Media Design confirmed the appropriateness of the program requirements and the vitality of the collaborative specializations overall. The MOAs for the Collaborative Specialization in Addiction Studies and the Collaborative Specialization in Knowledge Media Design were recommended for renewal. The MOA for the Collaborative Specialization in Global Health (U of T Global Scholar) is also recommended for renewal following required updates to its list of participating programs.

The review of the Collaborative Specialization in Biomedical Engineering identified several challenges, including low enrolments and overall engagement. The MOA was not recommended for renewal and admissions have been administratively suspended for September 1, 2024. A proposal is being developed by the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering to close the collaborative specialization through the major modification process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Annual Report on the Reviews of Graduate Collaborative Specializations: 2023-24.

University of Toronto
Annual Report on Graduate Collaborative Specialization Reviews, Cycle 6, 2023-24
 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>Addiction Studies</p> <p>Lead Faculty: Dalla Lana School of Public Health</p> <p>Date of Summary Assessment Report: April 2, 2024</p>	<p>Counselling and Clinical Psychology - MA, PhD</p> <p>Criminology and Sociolegal Studies - MA, PhD</p> <p>Medical Science - MSc, PhD</p> <p>Nursing Science - PhD</p> <p>Pharmaceutical Sciences - MSc, PhD</p> <p>Pharmacology - MSc, PhD</p> <p>Psychology - MA, PhD</p> <p>Public Health Sciences - MPH, MSc, PhD</p> <p>Social Work - MSW, PhD</p> <p>Sociology - MA, PhD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Collaborative Specialization develops and integrates graduate training in the multidisciplinary field of addictions, emphasizing the importance of an interdisciplinary perspective to examine patterns of use/behaviour, etiology, related health consequences, related social harms, treatment, and policy interventions to reduce related harms. CS requirements remain appropriate to the learning outcomes and include having broad base of knowledge concerning addictions; exposure to interdisciplinary perspectives on addictions; an understanding of factors that increase or reduce vulnerability to addictions; awareness of addictions from a public health perspective and understanding of the major social policy options for the prevention of addictions; and awareness of contemporary approaches to the treatment of addictions. Masters-level students in the CS Addiction Studies are required to complete PAS3700H Multidisciplinary Aspects of Addictions, plus 0.5 full-course equivalent (FCE) selected from the list of approved elective courses or an approved directed reading course. Students in degree programs that require a thesis are required to deal with a subject in the field of addiction in their thesis. Students in degree programs that do 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolments in the CS are robust and have been stable since 2015 at 30-40 per year with a total of 146 completions. Participating programs and core faculty members engage consistently through the advisory committee and teaching in the core and elective courses. A range of affiliated faculty also contribute to teaching the core and elective courses through guest speaking and lectures. DLSPH provides a teaching assistant to the CS Director to support the program's administrative and teaching requirements. CAMH has continued its support for the specialization and administrative support from the Institute for Mental Health Policy research has allowed for mitigation of demands on the role of director. The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) has also supported the program by providing speakers, practicum opportunities and sponsoring an event, a case competition, providing judging and awards to the top 3 teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review identifies succession planning for the CS Directorship as an area to be considered for improvement, though a new co-director approved by CS faculty representatives is in place. Recruitment and engagement with participating programs has been identified as an area for enhancements. The CS Director identified a number of measures to improve promotion of the program across participating programs, sharing with students who have expressed interest in the program but have not yet enrolled. One recommendation is that the CS investigate potential collaboration with the MScCH Field in Addictions and Mental Health, the core courses are also required or elective courses for the CS in Addiction Studies. The CS Director has met with the MScCH Program Director and both agree the programs are complementary but distinct. Conversations will continue to ensure that students for each program are given priority for enrollment where possible, and to discuss developing new courses that may be mutually beneficial. The CS is considering expansion of professional development and networking opportunities for students, and has identified potential opportunities to host virtual "Research Days" and lectures. 	<p>MOA is recommended for renewal</p>

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Collaborative Specialization & Lead Faculty	Participating Programs & Degrees	Appropriateness of Collaborative Specialization Requirements	Vitality of Collaborative Specialization	Other Strengths or Challenges Identified	Review Outcome
		not have a thesis or equivalent requirement must take a third 0.5 FCE from the list of approved electives.			
Global Health (U of T Global Scholar) Lead Faculty: Dalla Lana School of Public Health Date of Summary Assessment Report: April 2, 2024	Anthropology - MA, MSc, PhD Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry - MAsc, MEng, PhD Community Health - MScCH Dentistry - MSc (thesis only), PhD Geography - MA, MSc, PhD Health Policy, Management and Evaluation - MSc (thesis only), PhD Law - LLM, SJD Management - PhD Medical Science - PhD Nursing Science - MN, PhD Nutritional Sciences - PhD Pharmaceutical Sciences - MSc (thesis only), PhD Planning - MScPI, PhD Political Science - PhD Public Health Sciences - MPH, MSc (thesis only), PhD Rehabilitation Science - MSc, PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Collaborative Specialization requirements are appropriate to support the learning outcomes, and are tailored to the type of degree students are enrolled in. • Students participate in a common learning experience. All CS students must complete a global health seminar course at the masters (CHL5700) or doctoral level (CHL5701). • Students in professional masters that are coursework-only must complete a practicum placement and additional FCE's depending on their program to meet the Specialization requirement that 30% of courses be taken in the area of the Specialization. • Doctoral students in the CS must complete one core course and one approved elective course from outside their home department. They must also write and defend a thesis related to global health. In addition, their advisor or one member of their supervisory committee must be a global health scholar. • A survey of program alumni also indicated these program requirements are considered appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CS remains a vital program offering with an average of 39 applications each year. It is considered by faculty and students to be an influential factor in student recruitment. • Graduation data indicates robust completion numbers with a total of 75 completions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review notes there are opportunities to adjust participating units in the CS as some programs have expressed interest in discontinuing participation • The review recommends strengthening relationships with diverse global health faculty across the University and beyond through the Master Card Foundation funded Health Collaborative, and affiliated faculty working in global health institutions such as the WHO. • Deepen engagement of participating graduate units and students beyond DLSPH through promoting the benefits of the program and the stories of CSGH alumni is a priority for the CS • Increase opportunities for networking for upper year doctoral students through the Centre for Global Health. • An identified challenge is finding funding supports for doctoral fieldwork and practicum requirements. A recommendation is to explore funding supports for doctoral student international fieldwork and practicum requirements by working with DLSPH Advancement 	MOA is recommended for renewal following required changes to revise and update list of participating programs

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Biomedical Engineering Lead Faculty: Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering Date of Summary Assessment Report: March 12, 2024	Biochemistry – MSc, PhD Biomedical Engineering – MAsc, PhD Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry – MAsc, PhD Chemistry – MSc, PhD Dentistry – MSc, PhD Electrical and Computer Engineering – MAsc, PhD Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology – MSc, PhD Materials Science and Engineering – MAsc, PhD Medical Biophysics – MSc, PhD Medical Science – MSc, PhD Pharmaceutical Sciences – MSc, PhD Physics – MSc, PhD Physiology – MSc, PhD Rehabilitation Science – MSc, PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Collaborative Specialization meets the requirement that 30% of the courses taken are in the area of the Specialization. • Graduate students at the Masters and Doctoral level participate in a common learning experience through two seminar courses: one of BME1010H or BME1011H, and JDE1000H. • A key challenge identified by the review is that the original intent of the Collaborative Specialization has now been largely supplanted by the growth of dedicated graduate programs and initiatives that are better positioned to support the interests of the participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review notes that the Collaborative Specialization currently has very low enrolment and engagement by the participating units, that is not likely to change in the near future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Collaborative Specialization did well in helping to coordinate and engage research groups focused in the broad domain of biomedical engineering. It has helped to build the profile of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering and as a result. Foster a growing graduate student population. 	A proposal to close the collaborative specialization will be developed. On March 30, 2024 the Lead Faculty administratively suspended admissions to the CS and there will be no intake as of September 1, 2024
Knowledge Media Design Lead Faculty: Faculty of Information	Architecture – MArch Computer Science – MSc, PhD Curriculum and Pedagogy – MA, MEd, PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Collaborative Specialization meets the requirement that 30% of the courses taken are in the area of the Specialization. • The CS requirements support the learning outcomes of the specialization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Specialization has identified low enrolments as a challenge that the CS and the Lead Faculty is taking steps to address by removing existing enrolment caps and re-envisioning the focus of the specialization for a broader relevance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Specialization has been an ongoing success since its last review; the previous Director has done an excellent job updating the courses and overall structure of the CS. • The review identified sufficient supports to be a challenge for the CS in effectively fulfilling its mandate. To address 	MOA is recommended for renewal

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<p>Date of Summary Assessment Report: April 25, 2024</p>	<p>Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies – MA, PhD Information – MI, PhD Landscape Architecture – MLA Language and Literacies Education – MA, MEd, PhD Mechanical and Industrial Engineering – MAsc, MEng, PhD Medical Science – MSc, PhD Museum Studies – MMSt Religion – MA, PhD Urban Design – MUD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate students in this specialization participate in a common learning experience through required core coursework. Masters students complete KMD1001H, attend the KMDI Speaker Series Lectures (KMD2100Y), and complete an additional 0.5 FCE in elective space related to knowledge media and design. Doctoral students complete KMD1001H (if not already completed at the Master’s level), KMD1002H, attend the KMDI Speaker Series Lectures (KMD2200Y), and complete an additional 0.5 FCE in elective space from the KMD series or a list of recognized affiliate courses. Students pursue their own research interests using approaches appropriate to their discipline. Masters students completing a thesis or major research paper select a topic related to the specialization, as approved by the home graduate unit and the collaborative specialization committee. Doctoral dissertation topics must be in the field of knowledge media design. The thesis advisor and at least one other committee member must be from participating units in the CS. All students must submit a portfolio that includes completed research in the area of knowledge media design. The CS Committee will review all portfolios for their quality and contribution to the field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Collaborative Specialization has a number of participating units from multiple divisions within the University though there has been some unevenness in the level of engagement. The CS and Lead Faculty are planning to address this by engaging with the participating units to ensure continuing relevance and vitality 	<p>this, the CS will engage in conversations with participating units regarding the possibility of becoming a supporting unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review notes there can be at times a ‘blurring of goals’ between the Collaborative Specialization in Knowledge Media Design with the goals of the Knowledge Media Design Institute. The Lead Faculty plans to address this through improved communications and a clarification of leadership for both the CS and the Institute. 	