

Foods and Nutrition
Final Assessment Report &
Implementation Plan
March 2023

**Faculty / Affiliated
University College**

School of Food and Nutritional Sciences,

and the Program and Decanal responses form the basis of this Final Assessment Report (FAR) of the Food and Nutritional Sciences Graduate Program. The FAR is collated and submitted to the SGPS and to SUPR-G by the Internal Reviewer with the support of the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement.

Summative Assessment – External Reviewers’ Report

External reviewers *the personalized service that professors and all support staff provide in the program”.*

Strengths of the Program

- Faculty have remarkable research productivity given the high teaching loads.
- Faculty members work in diverse areas of Food and Nutrition, with expertise in food science, food engineering, and varying sub-specialties within clinical nutrition, community nutrition, epidemiology, research design, statistics.
- Faculty members are highly skilled at developing and completing research projects with students making important contributions to the literature.
- The combination of courses and research projects are very well thought out, thorough, and students develop excellent skills and a strong introduction to research.
- Students described that graduating with a MSc AND the chance to become a Registered Dietitian was a one of the main reasons for choosing this path.
- To enhance EDID in the curriculum

	<p>to secure OGS and other funding for thesis students. The mandate of the new Research Officer is broad and will include supporting the thesis program.</p>
<p>Recommendation #3:* Brescia leadership, academics and staff are recommended to identify staffing shortfalls and strategically fund additional supports required to fill those shortfalls. Program coordination, Research Coordinators or Associates, and additional dedicated research supports are needed within Brescia to ensure smooth continuation of all programs.</p>	<p>Program: Staffing issues are a concern and will continue to be addressed by the Program. A new part-time administrative support staff member will be assisting with various administrative processes and procedures including retrieving information and updating databases, preparing documents, reports, and spreadsheets, assisting staff with admission cycle processes for the MScFN program, and developing promotional and communication materials for the School.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">potential, especially for the MScFN Program.</p> <p>The Program will identify additional research supports that may be available at Western.</p> <p>Faculty: existing staff are deployed effectively.</p>
<p>Recommendation #4:* With respect to staffing and resource availability, such as the Indigenous Coordinator at Brescia, ongoing information exchange and discussion is recommended. It appears that parallel positions (and processes) may to be available at Western. Coordinators could seek out ways to confer and complement activities in both places.</p>	<p>Program: The Program has identified equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization (EDID) within the MScFN program as an area for continued improvement. As such, faculty will continue to invite Indigenous scholars to share their knowledge and expertise during class lectures, and the Program will continue to The Program will</p> <p>information and resources obtained are shared with faculty and staff. Much of this EDID material is delivered to Brescia faculty and staff at Brescia Faculty Institute (BFI) professional development workshops, which Program faculty will continue to participate in.</p> <p>The Brescia Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator works closely with the Indigenous Initiatives Team at Western University (main campus). Our Research Officer will also reach out to other Research Officers in relevant faculties on main campus (e.g., Health Sciences) to investigate additional research and funding</p> <p>Faculty: students and to expand faculty EDID knowledge. The use of CASPER in admissions will continue and the diversity of incoming classes to the MScFN Program will be monitored. Brescia will continue to communicate with and be involved in EDID initiatives at Western.</p>

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan provides a summary of the recommendations that require action and/or follow-up. In each case, the Graduate Program Chair, in consultation with the SGPS and the Dean is responsible for enacting and monitoring the actions noted in Implementation Plan.

Recommendation	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
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Recommendation #1:

Clearly define goals and objectives, expectations and recommended timelines for each program option.

	for the MScFN Program.		
Recommendation #4: Ongoing information exchange and discussion is recommended for areas Indigenous Coordinator. Seek out ways to confer and complement activities across parallel roles at Western and the other affiliate institutions.	< Seek out opportunities for coordination and collaboration between parallel roles at Western and other affiliate programs to alleviate some of the workload of current program staff.	Graduate Chair Research Officer Indigenous Coordinator	By December 2023

Other Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

- It was not clear if faculty at Brescia could hold NSERC grants. This should be further examined as it appeared that several faculty members would apply for it if possible.
- Additional discussions are warranted about how to support academics to supervise PhD students through Western.
- Encourage interaction/mentoring between the 1st and second year practicum students.