Western
UNIVERSITY · CANADA

The external consultant considers the human resources available to the program adequate for providing effective support. He points out some issues with the physical space where the admin offices are located. These issues are acknowledged by both the department and the office of the dean and within the budget and planning process both have requested funding to support renovations. Library resources and support, IT infrastructure, and lab resources and access are deemed effective for the support of student learning. As is expected, larger class sizes in first and second year yield to smaller classes on more focused topics in third and fourth year, enabling more interaction and discussion.

Student feedback indicates high satisfaction and appreciation for the opportunities to gain research training, especially in the honors thesis course, and also as research assistants.

Significant Strengths of the Program
The external consultant identified several strengths in particular including: (1) opportunities, including CEL opportunities, for students to apply their knowledge; (2) excellent one-on-one mentorship and skills consolidation in the HSP fourth year honors thesis, providing what he terms "an exceptional capstone experience"; (3) excellent support for students from the full-time Psychology Program Advisor; (4) access to and opportunities to research-intensive training working with full-time faculty members on their original research projects.

Suggestions for Improvement & Enhancement
The external reviewer had several suggestions for the program enhancement. First, student feedback indicates a desire for more transparency concerning practical applications. The department has developed a checklist of transferable skills already. The external consultant suggests that the department flag courses in which the content and assignments focus on practical applications. This would help students identify those courses. Second, some students in the HSP indicated confusion about how to integrate data analysis with their methods training. The external consultant suggests could be addressed either by updating the sequencing and structure of the offerings or integrating methods and data analysis into one course for the HSP students as is currently the case in the major module (in 2820E). The departmental response indicates that this possibility is being explored at an upcoming retreat. The external endorses the idea, now under consideration by the department, of expanding the half course (0.5 credit) 3800F/G (a third-year data analysis course) into a full year course (1.0 credit). He also raised the issue of writing skills. The Dean's Office response indicates that this has been identified as a broader concern that is provoking a Faculty-wide discussion and the possible implementation of a first year writing course requirement for Social Science students.

The external consultant's primary recommendation is: "keep up the good work." Having said that, there are some recommendations. One such, hiring an Indigenous Scholar, will be considered as part of a larger discussion of the department's Academic Strategic Plan at a May retreat. None of the recommendations or suggestions seem absolutely necessary for program sustainability, but below the non-thesis capstone option for the HSP and a comment on the proposed name change to differentiate the BSc are included.

Recommendations Required for Program Sustainability

Recommendation	Responsibility
Careful consideration of the non-thesis option capstone option for HSp students before making changes; experiment with alternatives such as CEL	Department
Retain "Psychology" in the revised BSc degree's name in order to avoid potential confusion	Department