

French Studies
Final Assessment Report &
Implementation Plan

Faculty / Affiliated University College	Huron University College
Degrees Offered	Bachelor of Arts
Modules Reviewed	French Language and Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Honours Specialization- Major French Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Specialization- Major
External Reviewers	Dr. Isabelle Lemée Department of Languages Lakehead University Dr. Christian Mbarga French Department St. Thomas University
	Dr. Laura Gribble Associate Academic Dean King's University College

Overview of Western’s Cyclical Review Assessment Reporting Process

In accordance with Western’s Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Final Assessment Report (FAR) provides a summary of the cyclical review, internal responses and assessment and evaluation of the undergraduate module delivered by the French Program, Department of French and Asian Studies at Huron University College.

with program stakeholders and the Dean’s Office on the self-study report continued into the fall.

External reviewers shared a positive assessment of the program indicating that “*it is clear that the Huron French Program is offering quality programs with great student satisfaction.*” They offer nine recommendations for further enhancement.

Strengths and Innovative Features Identified by the Program

- Courses encourage “an understanding of and a sensitivity to different cultural perspectives” and “openness to cultural diversity” through critical engagement with French and Francophone cultural artefacts and phenomena.
- Recent efforts have integrated an examination of issues of indigenization and decolonization through the study of a variety of works across different program courses.
- The program encourages outbound mobility in the form of Huron student exchanges to Versailles and Pol de Lille, and participation in Western’s exchanges/immersion experiences.
- Huron’s French program was the first to establish a guaranteed pathway to Western’s Althouse Faculty of Education for its graduating to become French teachers following graduation.
- Ivey/French dual degree program, a five-year program leading to a combined Ivey HBA and Huron Honours BA.
- “La journée francophone”, a day of French food and performance that the French program hosts at Huron.
- Current students and recent alumni indicated a high level of satisfaction with:
 - o the small class sizes,
 - o the supportive and accessible professors, and
 - o the one-on-one time that professors devote to students.

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complement and may leave room for more course offerings within each module.

- The viability of streaming students with little to no French experience—especially international students—into the Major, or perhaps into a Major designed with their needs in mind as presently.

Review Process

As part of the external review, the review committee, comprising two external reviewers and one internal reviewer, were provided with Volume I and II of the self-study brief in advance of the scheduled review and then met virtually (due to pandemic restrictions) over two days with the:

- Acting Vice-Provost of Academic Programs
- Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy and Faculty)
- Director of Academic Quality and Enhancement
- President (Huron University College)
- Provost and Dean (Huron University College)
- Registrar, (Huron University College)
- Director, Library and Learning Services, (Huron University College)
- Coordinator, French Program
- Administrative Staff
- Program Faculty
- Program Students

Following the virtual site visit, the external reviewers submitted a comprehensive report of their findings which was sent to the Program and Academic Dean for review and response. Formative documents, including Volumes I and II of the Self-Study, the External Report, and the Program and Decanal responses form the basis of this Final Assessment Report (FAR) of the Huron French Studies Program. The FAR is collated

Summative Assessment – External Reviewers’ Report

The external reviewers indicated that “*the French Program at Huron can pride itself of a*

Summary of the Reviewers' Key Recommendations and Program / Faculty Responses

The following are the recommendations in the order listed by the external reviewers. Recommendations requiring implementation have been marked with an asterisk (*).

Reviewers' Recommendations	Program / Faculty Response
<p>Recommendation #1 We recommend that the department be allowed to hire at least one full-time tenured faculty member, preferably a linguist and someone coming from France or a francophone country other than Canada. Diversity is key. This new recruit could be a Teaching-Focused faculty member.</p>	<p>Program: The program agrees with this recommendation; however, notes that hiring from a particular country is not a practice supported by HR. The department is committed to approach the recruitment process with the aim of attracting diverse applicants.</p> <p>The suggested creation of a teaching-focused position is outside the scope of program review and programmatic decision-making, and instead falls within negotiations between the faculty union and the Administration. The academic unit will advocate for the continued existence of the program sessional position within Huron French, which is a stable, full-time teaching position.</p> <p>Faculty: At present French is well-resourced with two tenure lines and two full-time program sessional instructors given the number of students in the program and its classes. In the event that there is an increase in enrolment, the faculty would consider an application for a</p>

<p>areas. Between 2016 and 2021 some of the courses suffered from low enrollments: Courses FRENCH 3301B, 3602 G and 4100G had only one student enrolled. FRENCH 4902A had six enrollments between 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. FRENCH 3753F had 7 enrolled in 2017-2018, FRENCH 2408B and 3752F saw an enrollment of 9 students in the 2018-2019 academic year. Additionally FRENCH Studies Spec had one student enrolled in 2017.</p>	<p>€ FRE 4100G is a thesis course, and once again it is normal for it to have small enrollments. Very few students elect to write a thesis in order to fulfill their degree requirements.</p> <p>€ FRE 3301 A/B typically has higher enrollments and in the specific year alluded to by the reviewers was offered as a reading course. Furthermore, this is currently the only translation course and is required for several modules.</p> <p>The French Studies Specialization had one student enrolled in 2017; however, the department is of the view that it is important to offer a Specialization module whenever an Honours Specialization module is offered. This is because students who do not meet the academic achievement component of the Honours Specialization module, but who have initially signed up for it, would not have a path to degree completion without being able to drop down into the Specialization module (which does not have the same grade requirements as the Honours Specialization).</p> <p>Several other courses within the program will likely see an increase in enrolment once the number of modules within the program have been reduced, as students will have to choose from existing programs. The aim is to create/retain module and course offerings that serve a broader range of students within the program, in the restructuring process.</p> <p>Faculty: The faculty is in agreement with the program’s response.</p>
<p>Recommendation #4 * We recommend that the Department of French try to recruit more actively.</p>	<p>Program: In addition to the existing recruitment plan, which includes participation in Huron Open House events (Fall and Winter), members of the program actively correspond with potential and incoming students.</p> <p>Program members will meet with the new VP University Growth (who oversees recruitment) and the Communications team to discuss raising the profile of French within the recruitment cycle in order to meet the reviewers’ recruitment recommendations. The aim of these discussions would be to work with recruitment to set specific strategies and program enrolment targets.</p> <p>Faculty: The faculty is in agreement with the program’s response.</p>
<p>Recommendation #5 * Huron French should consider organizing competitions for grade 12 high school students, as well as for its own</p>	<p>Program: The program indicated that the Japanese program organized contests for high school students in recent years, and while their event was successful by many measures, it has not led to higher program enrollments specifically.</p>

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students to increase
students' enrolment and
retention, and showcase
the department.

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Recommendation #8

We recommend that Huron College makes the learning of a second language mandatory for students in other relevant programs.

Faculty: The faculty supports the program's response to this recommendation.

Program:

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan provides a summary of the recommendations that require action and/or follow-up. The Program Coordinator, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty/Affiliated University College will be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan.

The number of recommendations prioritized for implementation has been reduced as some are outside the scope of the IQAP review process (recommendation #1 and #8). As a result, the aforementioned recommendations will not appear in the implementation table.

Recommendation	Proposed Action and Follow-up	Responsibility	Timeline
<p>Recommendations #2 and #3 Continued review of the programs in consultation with students and other stakeholders. The department should reduce the number of sub-programs offered.</p> <p>Given low enrolments in certain courses, consider redistributing resources within the program.</p>	<p>Develop a plan to restructure modules and courses, in consultation with students, faculty, academic advisors, registrar, senior leadership and program partners.</p>	<p>Coordinator, French Program Educational Policy Committee Dean</p>	<p>Plan by spring 2023 Restructuring by fall 2024</p>
<p>Recommendation #4 and #5 We recommend that the Department of French try to recruit more actively.</p> <p>Consider organizing competitions for grade 12 high school students, as well as for its own students (i.e.: essay writers, debaters, video artists, spelling bees, creative writers) to increase students' enrolment and retention, and showcase the department.</p>	<p>Continue participation in Huron Open House events and actively corresponding with potential incoming students.</p> <p>Meet with the new VP University Growth and the Communications team to determine renewed recruitment strategies and to set program enrolment targets.</p> <p>Update recruitment materials annually to reflect unique program offerings. Materials to include detailed information on courses and modules so that students can better understand offerings at a glance.</p>	<p>Coordinator, French Program</p>	<p>By fall 2023</p>

	<p>Share materials with current students, potential recruits, and academic advising for use during current students' Intent to Register period and incoming first-year students' enrolment sessions.</p> <p>Meet with current and past Chair of History regarding the specifics of their high school recruitment strategies, in particular the "History Day" initiative.</p> <p>Consult department members and students to gauge ways to buttress student engagement (e.g., invitations to a "sample class, video artists or creative writing contests).</p> <p>Continue offering campus film nights and conversation socials.</p>	
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Recommendation #6

We recommend that the French Program form a Student's French programme association to enhance collective synergy, brainstorm, organize social and cultural events, organize peer help, advocate for their needs, etc.

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Recommendation #9

We recommend that the Huron French Program consider offering courses for professionals, such as medical French, administrative French, French for tourism and hospitality.

Liaise with the Community Partnerships Office to discuss potential opportunities. Coordinato

Advertise any French-adjacent internship opportunities.

Consider offering special-interest technical courses. Engage in a discussion with Western Continuing Studies regarding possible opportunities.