



**Juris Doctor (JD) Program**  
Final Assessment Report &  
Implementation Plan

Faculty / Affiliated University College	Faculty of Law
Degrees Offered	Juris Doctor (JD)
Modules Reviewed	N/A
External Reviewers	<p>Jeff Berryman Distinguished University Professor of Law Faculty of Law University of Windsor</p> <p>Ian Lee Associate Professor Faculty of Law University of Toronto</p>
Internal Reviewers	<p>Dr. Kathryn Hibbert Associate Dean, Teacher Education Faculty of Education</p> <p>Iman Berry Undergraduate Student Ivey School of Business</p>
Date of Site Visit	March 14-16, 2022
Evaluation	Good Quality
Approval Dates	<p>SUPR-U: June 29, 2022 ACA: September 7, 2022 Senate (for information only): September 16, 2022</p>
Year of Next Review	Year of next cyclical review: 2029-2030



administration of a survey to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year Law students as well as alumni from 2014-2016.

The external reviewers shared a positive assessment of the JD Program. They offer several constructive considerations for further program enhancement and conclude their report with five recommendations.

#### Strengths and Innovative Features Identified by the Program

- Graduates have a very high rate of articling placement and continue to excel in an increasingly competitive legal market.
- Students take one of their first-year substantive courses, along with Legal Research, Writing, and Advocacy (LRWA), in a small group setting (18-24 students).
- The January Intensive Period is an intensive term in which students take only one course associated with LRWA in small groups allowing first year students to experience their first “moot”.
  - o Upper year students are frequently taught, during this period, by high-profile visiting scholars and eminent practitioners.
- In 2015-2016, Western Law became the first law school in Canada to give first-



Summative Assessment – External Reviewers’ Report

The external reviewers indicated that “

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Strengths of the Program

- Quality of all faculty members and particularly the academic credentials, publication and external grant records of recent hires.
  - o Strong positive feedback from students about the quality of instruction delivered by professors.
  - o The number of endowed chairs and fellowships is also a testament to the Faculty’s ability to recruit and support accomplished faculty members.
- In addition to the standard Fall/Winter terms, the inclusion of an intensive 3-week January term that features small group learning formats that promote the development of students’ legal reasoning skills through active in-class pedagogies.
- In addition to five full-year core courses, first-year students must take a sixth course during the Winter Term — students may choose either Corporate Law or Legal Ethics and Professionalism.
- Combined HBA/JD degree with Ivey Business School remains attractive to students.
- Range of offerings in clinical settings, moot programs and internships demonstrates a significant commitment of resources by the faculty.
- Number and diversity of clinical legal education offerings is impressive.

Areas of Concern or Prospective Improvement

- Organization and alignment of appropriate staff to handle the amount of work that is now falling within the Office of the Associate Dean (Academic).
- The ethnic diversity of the faculty complement.
- Small number of Indigenous students registering in the program.

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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
1. Review the workload of the Associate Dean (Academic) and find ways to allow the office holder more time to devote to academic program matters rather than personal accommodation requests.	<p>Program: The Program/Faculty has created a new Academic Counsellor position in the Faculty of Law to alleviate some of the burdens that currently fall on the Associate Dean (Academic). A search to fill this position is currently being conducted.</p> <p>Faculty: The Dean's Office recognizes the need for an Academic Counsellor to adjudicate and implement student requests for accommodation, among other things. The Faculty has been reviewing the needs of the Student Services Office and related offices (e.g., Careers and Professional Development Office, International Office, and Admissions and Recruitment Office) over the past year. Pursuant to that review, the Faculty will be adjusting some staff roles in the summer of 2022 in addition to hiring a new Academic Counsellor. The Faculty intends to create more overlap/intersection among roles/tasks so that student services staff can assist one another during peak periods of the year or when someone is ill or otherwise unable to work.</p>
2. Redouble its efforts to increase the diversity of its faculty membership and, in particular, that it use proactive recruitment strategies, as well as the opportunity afforded in impending new hiring, to broaden the professorship.	<p>Program: Western Law is committed to fostering diversity in its4(t)-7.3(er)-6n Lawy7onduct(m)-6.5(e)-4J 1e</p>

<p>3. Approach the question of whether to decouple LRWA from the Small Group Program by first determining, as a Faculty, what its goals are in offering instruction in legal research, writing and advocacy in first year. *</p>	<p>Program: The Program has engaged in an ongoing discussion of this issue for several years in the context of the Programs Committee and also through more general faculty discussions. Although there is considerable interest in this issue, members of the program have yet to reach any consensus. The Program will continue to discuss the issue at an upcoming Faculty retreat and through the work of the 2022-23 Programs Committee.</p> <p>Faculty: Endorsed by the Dean's Office.</p>
<p>4. Consider expanding the range of Winter term first-year electives to include other upper-year core courses, particularly highly-subscribed courses that serve as prerequisites for more advanced courses and that can profitably be studied without having completed the core first-year curriculum. *</p>	<p>Program:</p>

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Implementation Plan

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

The number of recommendations prioritized for implementation has been reduced as some have been, or are already being, actioned as described in the program and Faculty responses above (#1 and #2). As a result, the recommendations