

**REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
TO THE REGULAR November 2019 SENATE**

FOR DISCUSSION

Eighteen-month follow-up from ACAPLAN's recommendations from the Program Review for the following program: GERONTOLOGY.

Below is an excerpt from the Institutional Quality Assessment Process at Laurentian University approved at the Quality Council in June 2011 and revised in 2018 and 2019.

PROCESS FOR FOLLOW-UP

No later than 18 months after Senate submission, those responsible for implementing the changes writes a report to the Dean and to ACAPLAN, on the actions it has taken in response to the review.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE – CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW OF LAURENTIAN
UNIVERSITY'S Gerontology Program of Huntington University**

Introduction:

The Gerontology Program submitted its Self-Study in 2016, the external review took place in May 2017, and the reviewers' report was submitted in June 2017. The Laurentian Quality Assurance Implementation Plan was completed, approved, and forwarded to Senate in November 2017. This was the third review of the program since its inception.

The purpose of this current report is to provide an update on the actions taken by the *Gerontology Program* to implement changes related to the recommendations. The following is an outline of each recommendation and the corresponding update.

Recommendations:

1. Clarify the objectives and outcomes of each academic program	Discuss the existing stated objectives and outcomes with students and determine how to better clarify both to them	Chair	June 30 2018
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A. The Chair conducted three class presentations on Programs and Learning Outcomes during the winter and fall of 2018. The students in the 4th year course identified the learning outcomes were clear and resonated with their learning. However, previous to the presentation, they had not understood the program types: Concentration /Major/Specialization. The clarification during the presentation was helpful to their understanding. Applying the lessons learned from the first presentation, a second and third presentation was provided by the Chair to Gerontology 1st year classes in the winter of 2018 and the fall of 2018. The focus of the second round of presentations was on the Program options and how students may want to strategize to accomplish as much as they can during their undergraduate education.

B. Subsequently, the Chair developed a FAQ sheet that, in addition to other topics, explained the Minor, Concentration, Major, and Specialization. It was important to provide this information outside of classroom

presentation since so many of gerontology students are taking the program via Online learning. This FAQ sheet continues to be distributed to students who contact the Chair for academic support and guidance. The information found in this FAQ is also available on Laurentian’s website.

C. Many students enter the Gerontology Program upon graduation from the Activation Coordinator Diploma Program at George Brown College. Therefore, the Chair provided a presentation on Gerontology Programs and learning outcomes, to a large class of George Brown students, via a Skype connection, in winter 2018.

D. Overall, steps were taken to provide clarity on the Gerontology program offerings and learning outcomes. The information distribution and academic guidance on these topics is ongoing.

2. Offer the B.A. 4-year Major via Online learning.	Expand the number of courses available via Online learning towards an online 4-year degree	Chair with Unit	Ongoing, with annual reports to Dean
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A. Two 4th year courses were approved for Online delivery and were offered 2018-2019. The courses were GERO 2207/4206 Public Policy/Health Policy and GERO 4306 Service Delivery in Long-Term Care

B. Two additional courses were approved for Online development for 2018-2019. GERO 3126 Research Literacy for Gerontology and GERO 2257/4257 Gerosex I and II. They will be available for Online delivery 2019-2020.

C. One additional course was approved for development for Online delivery, GERO 3127 Applied Research Methods in Gerontology. It should be available for delivery in 2021.

D. The B.A. 4-year Major and Specialization should be available via Online learning for 2020-2021.

3. To consider establishing a virtual classroom	Consult with Laurentian’s IT unit about feasibility	Chair	June 30, 2018
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A. Discussion with faculty on classroom needs/interests is ongoing. Class recordings, especially with guest speakers, for asynchronous learning are preferred to synchronous classroom teaching.

B. A telephone meeting took place with IT. The outcome was IT’s recommendation to assess the current classrooms on campus for virtual teaching and make a request for the use of these rooms or for similar technology to be purchased and installed in Huntington’s classrooms. This investigation is ongoing, in consultation with other programs at Huntington.

C. One gerontology faculty member, Dr. Venkataraman, provided synchronous learning in two courses, GERO 3127 Research Methods and GERO 4236 Physical Activity and Aging course via Clickmeeting. These “virtual classroom” opportunities were on a one-off basis and were in response to students’ requests for this remote-learning. It is expected that this virtual classroom will be provided again in the coming year but, because it is limited to synchronous class time, it will not be a permanent feature of the Gerontology

Program.

D. Overall, virtual classroom development is ongoing. Faculty initiatives include utilizing free apps to digitally record audio visual presentations, power point slides, and white boards using an Ipad Pro. These teaching resources are being incorporated into Online course delivery. Faculty also use Skype for connecting to remote presenters during class time.

4. Consider removing STATS 2126 as a requirement for Gerontology majors	Examine alternative requirements that do not water down 4-year degree	Chair with Unit	June 30, 2018
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A. STAT 2126 is no-longer a requirement of the Major or Specialization. Program changes were submitted and approved by CELP and Laurentian’s Senate.

B. GERO 3126 Applied Research Method in Gerontology I was revised to “Research Literacy for Gerontology.” The course will prepare students to be critical readers of research papers and understand the context and use of statistics.

C. This recommendation was accomplished.

5. Establish a Minor in Intercultural Aging	Communicate with all academic departments at Laurentian U, U. of Sudbury, Thorneloe and Huntington U. to invite interested faculty to participate in the development of a Minor in Intercultural Aging.	Chair with Unit	June 30, 2018
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A. Written and oral invitations to participate in a working group towards the development of a Minor in Intercultural Aging were extended to the Faculty of Health. There were a few questions after the announcement at meeting: (1) would a new minor require more courses? If so, there’s no room in the school’s curriculum and (2) would the committee and minor be bilingual? The answer was this would be up to the committee. One member of the Faculty expressed interest and asked to be included in the committee but unfortunately, that individual passed away a month later.

B. Subsequent communication and invitations to the Faculty of Arts will take place in the coming year.

C. Overall, the establishment of a Minor in Intercultural Aging is ongoing.

6. Offer a course that allows an in-depth study of a topic in lieu of a thesis	Develop at least one 3-credit course	Chair with Unit	June 30, 2019
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A. GERO 4096 Directed Studies was approved by CELP and Laurentian’s Senate in 2019. This course will serve as a flexible option for on campus or distance students to complete a 3-credit 4th year course.

B. This recommendation was accomplished.

7. Explore cross-listing with other faculties at Laurentian University	Consult Directors of the Schools of Nursing, Social Work about including Gero courses in their degrees—and also examine courses in Anthropology, Music, Nursing, Sociology and Women’s Studies for courses that could become Gero electives	Chair	June 30, 2018
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A. This recommendation took on several activities for the purpose of increasing course-links to other programs.

B. The Chair contacted all Faculty of Health Directors via email for the purpose of discussing potential links between programs or courses. The Director of Orthophonie, (Speech Language and Audiology) Dr. Mayer-Crittenden met to share program information but given that Gerontology is only offered in English and Orthophonie is only offered in French, there was little overlap. A second response was provided by Dr. McMillan Boyles of the School of Nursing. She advised that she regularly refers students to gerontology courses and to the Gerontology Minor specifically.

C. The opportunity to increase cross-linked courses was reviewed and found to be problematic. Currently there are two 3-credit courses and one 6-credit course cross-linked with Religious Studies. These courses were offered on a regular basis and therefore, the cross-linked strategy benefitted everyone. However, a 3-credit cross-linked course with the Music Department had not been offered in over five years due to budget limitations. Consultation occurred between the Chairs of the Music and Gerontology Departments and as a result, forms were completed and submitted to CELP to transfer host responsibility to the Gerontology Program and to delete MUSC 3207. The plan is to offer GERO 3307 Music Therapy and Aging in Spring 2020, as an intensive course May 11-15.

D. The Chair conducted a review of courses offered by many programs: Anthropology, Business, Indigenous Studies, Music, Nursing, Psychology, Sociology, and Women’s Studies with the intent of learning what courses may be appropriate gerontology electives. The following changes to the official list of gerontology electives was submitted and approved by CELP.

Courses Added:

- ANTR 2136 Workplace Culture
- COMM 1106 Understanding and Using Financial Information
- COST 2606 The Decorated Body as Communication
- COST 2446/RLST 2446 The Dynamics of Interpersonal Communication I
- COST 2447/RSLT 2447 The Dynamics of Interpersonal Communication II
- COST 3127 Communication Research
- INDG 3256 Aboriginal Health and Wellness
- RLST 3326 F Food, Ritual and Religion
- SOCI 2036 Family Sociology

SOCI 3817 Sociology of Aging
SWLF 2106 Political Economy of Social Welfare
SWLF 2107 Human Service Organizations
WGSX 2456 Women's Health Issues

E. Overall, the recommendation was accomplished.