

ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

REVIEW SUMMARY FOR DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

(1) REVIEW DETAILS

Unit Reviewed:	<i>Department of Biology</i>
Programs Reviewed:	<i>Bachelor of Science Three-Year – Biology</i> <i>Bachelor of Science Four-Year – Biology</i> <i>Bachelor of Science Honours – Biology</i> <i>Bachelor of Science Double Honours – Biology</i> <i>Bachelor of Science Four-Year – Environmental Biology</i> <i>Bachelor of Science Honours – Environmental Biology</i> <i>Minor in Biology</i> <i>Master of Science – Biology (Thesis-based)</i> <i>Doctor of Philosophy – Biology (Thesis-based)</i>
Review Team Members:	<i>W. Gary Anderson, Professor (External Reviewer)</i> University of Manitoba (Faculty of Science) <i>Aarthi Ashok, Professor (External Reviewer)</i> University of Toronto Scarborough (Department of Biological Sciences) <i>Christian Willenborg, Professor (Internal Reviewer)</i> University of Saskatchewan (College of Agriculture and Bioresources)
Date and Type of Review:	<i>March 12-13, 2026 (On Site Review)</i>

(2) STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

The Review Team were provided with a facilities tour and also consulted with many stakeholders as part of the review, including having in-person meetings with the following personnel:

- Faculty
- ASPA teaching staff
- Undergraduate students
- Graduate students
- Administrative support staff
- Department Head
- College leadership (Arts and Science, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)
- Deputy Provost

(3) SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Review Team's External Review Report included a number of findings and observations for consideration. Recommendations were primarily in the areas of (sorted alphabetically):

- Academic and/or administrative policies and/or processes
- Administrative/support staff complement size
- Administrative support structure
- Communication with academic and administrative leadership
- Course design and delivery, including standardization and/or options
- Curriculum design and/or review
- Facility optimization and/or utilization
- Faculty complement size and/or areas of focus
- Graduate student tracking
- Indigenization
- Internal communication, collaboration, and relationships
- Program learning outcomes
- Strategic planning and/or reviews
- Student experiential learning opportunities
- Student mentorship
- Student teaching assistant assignments, expectations, and feedback
- Teaching, learning, and research opportunities available through AI platforms and tools

(4) IMPLEMENTATION OF ENHANCEMENTS, MONITORING AND DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

The Department Head and Dean (Arts and Science) are responsible for building an action plan and the implementation of any recommendations in the External Review Report which were supported and/or agreed with in terms of the response from the academic unit. The Department Head is expected to provide a progress update to the Office of the Provost and VP Academic within 2 years of the completion of the review, which in this instance, is April 2028.

The next review of the department and its programs will be initiated no later than the 2035/36 academic year.

(5) DISTRIBUTION

Updates on the status of this review, including implementation progress in the years following review completion, will be provided to Academic Programs Committee.

The Self-Study Report, External Review Report, and the Academic Unit Response, are all shared with the following stakeholders: College/Department leaders, Dean of College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Teaching Innovation and Strategic Initiatives, and the Deputy Provost.

Inquiries into further details about the process and outcomes of this review can be submitted to the [Assessment and Analytics Team](#) within the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic.