

ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

REVIEW SUMMARY FOR DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION AND CULTURE

(1) REVIEW DETAILS

Unit Reviewed:	<i>Department of Religion and Culture</i>
Programs Reviewed:	<i>Bachelor of Arts Three-Year - Religion and Culture Bachelor of Arts Four-Year - Religion and Culture Bachelor of Arts Honours - Religion and Culture Master of Arts – Religion and Culture (Thesis-based)</i>
Review Team Members:	<i>Richard Ascough, Professor (External Reviewer)</i> Queen’s University (School of Religion) <i>Jane Barter, Professor (External Reviewer)</i> University of Winnipeg (Faculty of Arts) <i>Clint Westman, Professor (Internal Reviewer)</i> University of Saskatchewan (College of Arts and Science)
Date and Type of Review:	<i>March 18 – April 5, 2024 (Virtual Review)</i>

(2) STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

The Review Team consulted with many stakeholders as part of the review, including having virtual meetings with the following personnel:

- Faculty
- Sessional Instructors
- Undergraduate students
- Graduate students
- Administrative support staff
- Alumni
- External stakeholders
- Department leadership
- College leadership (St. Thomas More, 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 unit structure, governance, leadership and/or management
- Academic partnerships
- Alignment of course offerings with academic program goals
- Collection and/or access to better data and/or information to support enhanced planning and decision-making
- Communication with stakeholders
- Communication within academic unit
- Curriculum design and review
- Faculty complement size and/or areas of focus
- Program review, optimization and/or reconfiguration
- Program learning outcomes
- Strategic planning, reviews, and retreats
- Student funding
- Student satisfaction

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

The Department Head and Dean (St. Thomas More College) 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 May 2026.

The next review of the department and its programs will be initiated no later than the 2033/34 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.

Previously, the Self-Study Report, External Review Report, and the Academic Unit Response, have all been shared with the following stakeholders: College/Department leaders (STM and university), Dean of College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience, 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.