

University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process
REVIEW SUMMARY
Toronto School of Theology
Published October 2012

Commissioning Officer: Provost, University of Toronto

Programs offered conjointly by the Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto:*

Emmanuel College

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Pastoral Studies
- Master of Religious Education
- Master of Sacred Music
- Master of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry**
- Master of Theology**
- Doctor of Theology**

Knox College

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Religious Education
- Master of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry**
- Master of Theology**
- Doctor of Theology**

Regis College

- Master of Arts in Ministry and Spirituality
- Master of Divinity
- Master of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry**
- Master of Theology**
- Doctor of Theology**

St. Augustine's Seminary

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Religious Education
- Master of Theological Studies

University of St. Michael's College Faculty of Theology

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Religious Education
- Master of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry**
- Master of Theology**

- Doctor of Theology**

University of Trinity College, Faculty of Divinity

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry**
- Master of Theology**
- Doctor of Theology**

Wycliffe College

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Religion***
- Master of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry**
- Master of Theology**
- Doctor of Theology**

* Conjoint programs are at the "Second entry undergraduate/Basic" level unless otherwise noted.

** "Graduate/Advanced level program"

*** Closure approved March 14, 2012

Reviewers

1. Professor Ellen Reviewers Aitken, McGill University
2. Professor David F. Ford, University of Cambridge
3. Professor Richard Rosengarten, University of Chicago

Date of Review Visit

January 10-11, 2012

Previous reviews

This review of these conjoint programs is the first full review under the UTQAP. Recent OCGS Review Date: 2003: Good Quality (Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology)

CURRENT REVIEW

Documentation provided to reviewers

- Terms of Reference
- Self-Study
- Towards 2030 Framework

Consultation process

The reviewers met with the Vice-President and Provost, U of T; Vice-Provost Academic Programs, U of T; Director, TST; Heads of TST Member Colleges; TST Advanced Degree Directors; Directors and Faculty of TST Member Colleges; TST Basic and Advanced Degree Students; Interim Director, DMin program, TST; TST Advanced Degree Program Disciplinary Groups; Representatives from U of T cognate disciplines: Faculty of Music, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Department of the Study of Religion, Centre for Medieval Studies, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education; Dean, U of T School of Graduate Studies; Library representatives; TST Alumni.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: OVERALL ASSESSMENT AND SPECIFIC ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN REVIEW REPORT

The Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto offer conjoint programs under the Memorandum of Agreement (2004).

Overarching Commentary on Programs

The reviewers observed the following strengths:

- Mode of delivery
 - Small-group study, co-curricular activities and opportunities for personal growth outside the classroom are major parts of learning at TST

The reviewers identified the following areas of concern:

- Scope and priorities
 - Large number of degrees
- Curriculum
 - Considerable duplication of courses and faculty across TST member colleges

The reviewers made the following recommendations:

- Scope and priorities
 - U of T with TST should encourage theological studies and the study of religions to the highest international level; together they have the potential to become a global leader in these studies
 - Consider expanding Jewish and Muslim professional education at TST
- Curriculum
 - Coordinate curriculum and faculty resources across TST member colleges to support programs
- Enrolment

- o TST could contribute to U of T's expansion of the professional master's programs, graduate expansion, growth in mature learners, and international student recruitment

Undergraduate Program (i.e. second entry undergraduate or "basic" degree programs)

The reviewers observed the following strengths:

- Overall quality
 - o Master of Divinity is "above standard"; other degrees are "at standard"
- Curriculum
 - o Faculty and students view many programs as well conceived and reflective of students' educational needs

The reviewers identified the following areas of concern:

- Scope and priorities
 - o Large number of degrees dilutes critical mass

The reviewers made the following recommendations:

- Scope and priorities
 - o Consider streamlining the number of degrees offered
 - o Differentiate "basic" (i.e. second entry undergraduate) degrees from "advanced" (i.e. graduate) degrees
 - o Articulate common educational standards and purposes for these degrees

Graduate Program (i.e. graduate or "advanced" degree programs)

The reviewers observed the following strengths:

- Overall quality
 - o Master of Theology is "at standard"

The reviewers identified the following areas of concern:

- Overall quality
 - o Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Theology are "below standard"
- Scope and priorities
 - o Demands of large number of "Basic" (i.e. undergraduate) programs means doctoral program lacks coherence and coordinated oversight; too many students are too much "on their own"
- Admissions
 - o Many students are admitted to the Doctor of Theology but transfer into and complete the PhD* (*offered by the University of St. Michael's College Faculty of Theology; not a conjoint program)
- Administration

o “Acute” need for new structure and different kind of leadership (TST governance structure limits authority of Director of TST and Directors of graduate degree programs in relation to member colleges; especially problematic for graduate degrees)

The reviewers made the following recommendations:

- Scope and priorities
 - o Consider closing the Doctor of Theology
 - o Consider creating a conjoint PhD (and possibly also a conjoint MA) offered by TST and U of T
- Admissions
 - o Discontinue practice of admitting students to the Doctor of Theology and allowing them to transfer into and complete the PhD* (*offered by the University of St. Michael’s College Faculty of Theology; not a conjoint program)
- Graduates
 - o Track doctoral graduates to assess whether their professional lives match program goals
- Administration
 - o Consider TST-wide coordination of doctoral education (students form a cohort; faculty oversee doctoral education as a coordinated, complementary body; coordinated curriculum and exam structure)

Faculty/Research

The reviewers identified the following areas of concern:

- Research
 - o Faculty hold few externally funded research grants
 - o Faculty tend not to submit applications for research funding

The reviewers made the following recommendations:

- Research
 - o Consider developing research collaboration between TST and U of T in which scholarly resources on religion are complementary
- Faculty complement
 - o Coordinate faculty renewal across TST colleges, and both ways between TST and cognate U of T departments, to avoid duplication
 - o Distinguish between faculty who teach “basic” (i.e. second entry undergraduate) degrees and those who are also involved in “advanced” (i.e. graduate) degrees
 - o Ensure faculty involved in conjoint degrees meet U of T standards for research, teaching and other qualifications
 - o Ensure that U of T is represented on all TST appointment, promotion and tenure committees related to conjoint degrees

Administration

The reviewers observed the following strengths:

- Resources
 - o TST has considerable assets in buildings and endowments
- Advancement
 - o TST actively seeks philanthropic support

The reviewers identified the following areas of concern:

- Collaboration / Relationships
 - o Significant difference of understanding between the TST colleges and U of T regarding what is provided in “central bin” costs that are assessed to colleges

The reviewers made the following recommendations:

- Collaboration / Relationships
 - o Differentiated collaboration between TST and U of T in both academic and professional dimensions can contribute to their meeting responsibilities to academic and professional communities, and to a complex multi-faith, pluralist society, locally, nationally and internationally
 - o Closer relationship between TST and U of T could facilitate fundraising, faculty and international student recruitment, and support an improved level of funded research activity
 - o Enhance communication regarding the financial relationship between TST and U of T; discussions about “central bin costs” should proceed carefully and transparently
 - o Discussions regarding financial arrangements should be negotiated by someone with high-level administrative experience and credibility at TST and U of T
 - o Consider having U of T provide support for fundraising and research grant applications as part of future financial negotiations between TST and U of T
- Advancement
 - o Expanding the inter-faith dimension of TST could be attractive to potential donors
- Planning / Vision
 - o TST should produce its own “Towards 2030” planning document
 - o TST and U of T should consider engaging in shared, less formal long-range planning discussions at regular intervals