

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

**Theatre, Undergraduate (BA, BFA) – 2016 - 2022
Theatre and Performance Studies, Graduate (MA,
MFA & PhD) – 2015 - 2022**

**School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design
(AMPD)**

Cyclical Program Review

This Final Assessment Report (FAR) provides a synthesis of the cyclical review of the programs listed below.

Program(s) Reviewed:

Theatre (BA, BFA)

Theatre and Performance Studies (MA, MFA, PhD)

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

Dr. Ramón H. Rivera-Servera, Effie and Marie Cain Regents Professor of Fine Arts and Dean, College of Fine Arts, The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Melissa Blanco Borelli, Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance and Director of the Program in Dance, Northwestern University

Dr. Barbara Evans, Associate Professor, Department of Cinema & Media Arts, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design, York University

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones:

Cyclical Program Review launch: September 15, 2022

Self-study undergraduate program submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: August 15, 2023

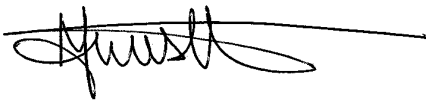
Self-study graduate program submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: August 31, 2023

Date of the Site Visit: October 18-19, 2023

Review Report received: February 8, 2024

Dean's and Program Response received: March 28, 2024

Implementation Plan and FAR received by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, May 23, 2024.



Submitted by Marcia Annisette, Vice-Provost Academic, York University

This review was conducted under the York University Quality Assurance Protocol, August 2020.

SITE VISIT: October 18-19, 2023

The virtual site visit including meetings with the following individuals and groups:

- Marcia Annisette, Vice-Provost Academic
- Alice MacLachlan, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies
- Sarah Bay-Cheng, Dean, School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
- Sarah Parsons, AD Research
- Gabriel Levine, AD Academic
- Eric Armstrong, Chair of the Department
- Ian Garrett, Graduate Program Director
- Sheril Hook, Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning, University Libraries
- Mary Kandiuk, Program Support Librarian
- Full-time faculty members
- Part-time faculty members
- Departmental administrative staff
- Undergraduate and graduate students

OUTCOME

The Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance received the Program and Decanal responses to the recommendations and has approved an implementation plan.

A report on the progress of the initiatives undertaken in response to recommendations in general and as specified in the implementation plan will be provided in the Follow-up Report which will be due 18 months after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance (in November 2025).

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2030 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2031 or Winter of 2032.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department of Theatre & Performance, within the School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD), is home to six undergraduate and two graduate Programs in Theatre.

The undergraduate programs lead to the BA or a BFA. Specialized streams in the Theatre programs include Performance Creation, and in the BFA, streams in Production and in Acting. Minor options are also available.

The MA and PhD programs were established in 2005, and the first graduate students were accepted in 2006. The degree name was originally "Theatre Studies," but was later changed to "Theatre and Performance Studies" (or "T&PS") in 2012 to better reflect the interdisciplinary curricular and faculty research strengths in the program. In

2023, the programs were combined with the MA Dance and PhD Dance Studies to form the current program in “Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies” (or “TDPS”) to reflect the overlapping areas of research, instruction, and supervision across the programs.

The MFA in Theatre is currently on hiatus as the suite of programs offered by the Department is evaluated and programs evolve.

The reviewers “note the ways in which the unit has advanced significant progress since the last review on matters of securing broader representation and to ensure the programs are culturally responsive. Strategic hiring to this end, the curricular and programmatic advancement of devised performance, and the increasing move toward interdisciplinary integration with curriculum in dance and, as we recommend in this document, media, point towards a future well aligned with contemporary practice and with the stated diversity goals.” The areas the reviewers highlight for continued focus include exploring potential for curricular efficiencies through integration with other programs, enhancing resources and curricular planning in support of professional development and career planning, and focusing graduate curriculum around methodology instead of direct content expertise.

INSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:	ACTION	TIMELINE:	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
<p>1. That the Department continue to explore integration with other programs to secure both staffing and curricular efficiencies</p>	<p>1a. Work on streamlining and amalgamating resources in the newly merged department will continue through the summer and into next year. 1b-c. Overseen by the department executive, faculty will identify all existing integrations within our areas, and reach out to other AMPD departments, to establish new connections and to streamline our offerings across performance and media. 1d. Areas, coordinated by the executive, will look for ways to develop partnerships and exchanges further. 1e. The Chair and the Transition Advisor, working with the staff and the executive, will update articulation agreements and simplify degree pathways where possible. 1f. The Acting & Performance area and the Performance Creation area will collaborate to develop further opportunities for Directing and Acting for Camera within current offerings. 2. The program will use the new website to more effectively communicate with students about events, offerings, pathways, and career opportunities.</p>	<p>Summer 2024; ongoing. Website: revisions underway; expected May 2024</p>	<p>Chair; Department Exec; Associate Dean Academic; Dean</p>
<p>2. That the Department and programs enhance resources and curricular planning in support of professional development/career planning.</p>	<p>1. The Theatre program will clarify & promote existing opportunities in THEA 3150 and 4150, THEA 4020 and 4021, and expand them across areas and disciplines. 2. The Department will take steps to highlight the range of professional development and career planning opportunities available to students via the department website, social media, and related communications. 3. The Department will continue to develop Work Integrated Learning (WIL) offerings through new grants (expanding on previously successful CEWIL and AIF grants) and seek to offer more community and workplace experiential education opportunities in all programs. 4. The Department will continue to apply for and offer job opportunities through the Work Study and Research at York (RAY) programs.</p>	<p>Planning in Summer 24; Search in 2024-25. Review options in Summer 24 for shared curriculum offerings with professional development across the Faculty (e.g., 'in/outs') and potential for core</p>	<p>Chair; Assoc Dean-Academic; Dean</p>

	<p>5. The Department will continue to invite alumni to classes and events, including Prime Time, to discuss career pathways and provide networking opportunities for students in all years of study.</p>	<p>curriculum.</p>	
<p>3. That the graduate program focus curriculum around methodology instead of direct content expertise.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The program will enhance its outreach to cross-appointed faculty with the goal of inviting more substantial engagement with the program and its students. 2. The program will clarify embedded methodologies in course titles and descriptions. 3. The Department will provide support for GPD continuity with initiatives and conversations at the AMPD Grad Committee level as a revision to the program administration manual, and through onboarding and mentorship at program and faculty levels. 4. The Department will seek new hires in the department to address needed methodology instruction and supervision. 5. Through the AMPD Graduate Committee, advocate for and support searches for FGS-appointable faculty across AMPD that looks to facilitate cross-program supervision through normalization across programs, and shared prioritization of methodologies. 6. The Department will build supports for non-AMPD program appointed faculty to be better integrated into program administration and primary supervision in ways that respect the impact on overall service commitments. 7. Continue to build and rebuild non-curricular opportunities for connection between students and faculty which leverages our program colloquium, AMPD-level colloquium, student governance structures, and social events. 	<p>Review of curriculum in Summer/Fall 24; implementation of actions outlined in 24/25.</p>	<p>GPD; Associate Dean Research; Dean</p>

