Executive Summary of the 2012-2013 Cyclical Review of the Master (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Programs in *Lettres françaises*

Submitted by the Graduate Program Evaluation Committee
June 26, 2013

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<th>Program</th>
<th><em>Lettres françaises</em></th>
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| Degrees             | Doctorat (Ph.D.) en philosophie *Lettres françaises*  
Maîtrise ès arts (M.A.) *Lettres françaises* |
| Fields              | 1. Création littéraire  
2. Littératures de langue française  
3. Langue et discours |
| Date of evaluators' visit | February 27-28, 2013 |
| Final rating        | Good quality |

**Summary**
The graduate programs in *Lettres françaises* were rated positively by the evaluators. Their report indicated we have a dynamic and dedicated group of professors in these programs, and students, particularly those at the doctoral level, are extremely satisfied with the quality of the teaching and the guidance offered by faculty members.

**Strengths**
The recent change to the fields of study in the graduate programs has been a positive step. The new field, *Langue et discours*, allows the Department to be recognized in its role as a leader in the field of the use of the French language in North America.

The Department makes substantial resources available to its graduate students and professors, including resources such as a writer-in-residence, the *Polyphonies du français* lab, an excellent collection in Morisset Library as well as the Centre for Research on French-Canadian Culture (CRCFF). Students can also contribute to the journal *@nalyses* and participate in the *Le français à la mesure d’un continent* (French in North America) project, which is part of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council’s Major Collaborative Research Initiatives project.

**Areas for improvement**
The Department would do well to provide a more accurate picture of its graduate programs and a clearer idea of seminar content. It would be good to clarify the connection between the seminar content and the three fields of study and to make sure that at least one seminar in each field of study is offered every year. An improved description of the mandatory methodology workshop, FRA5590, would be helpful so that it is consistent from one year to the next. Standards for the comprehensive examination, evaluation criteria and issues surrounding the evaluation must be clarified, particularly for cases of failure.

**Recommendations**

1. **Courses:** Review courses and reduce the number offered, clarify the connection between the courses and the three fields of study—particularly the new field, *Langue et discours*, and ensure the three fields of study are better represented in the course offerings each year (at least one course in each of the three fields every year).
2. **Clarity for comprehensive examination:** Clarify the standards for the comprehensive examination and improve the description of the mandatory methodology workshop, FRA5590, so the content is more consistent from year to year.
3. Increase efforts to recruit students—both those whose mother tongue is French and those who study in and use the French language—and better promote scholarships and the options available for financial support. Continue to explore the possibility of offering a master's by coursework (without thesis or project).

4. Consider conducting a survey among graduates of these master's and doctoral programs about the quality of the programs as well as the link between their education and their current position in the workforce.

5. Continued attention must be given to completion rates for both the MA and the PhD programs and to PhD students' time-to-completion rates.

**Timetable and deadlines**
The five recommendations above are to be implemented by the next review. The next cyclical review must be completed by July 1, 2019.

**Authority**
The director of the Département de français, the chair of the graduate studies committee and the vice-dean of graduate studies at the Faculty Arts are responsible for implementing these recommendations.