Executive Summary of the 2013-2014 Cyclical Review of the Graduate Program in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
Submitted by the FGPS Graduate Program Evaluation Committee
May 21, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program:</th>
<th>Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree/diploma</td>
<td>Master of Health Sciences in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Graduate Diploma in Auditory-Verbal Studies</td>
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<td>Fields</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of external evaluators' visit</td>
<td>November 19 and 20, 2009 (Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final rating</td>
<td>Good quality</td>
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**Strengths of the program**

The master's program meets the stringent accreditation requirements of the Council of Accreditation of Canadian University Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CACUP-ASLP) and has accredited the Master of Health Sciences in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Program. The accreditation is valid until April 2017. The program is offered in French only at the University of Ottawa and trains audiologists and speech-language pathologists for francophone communities throughout Ontario and also across Canada.

For its evaluation, the Graduate Program Evaluation Committee drew from documentation that had been prepared for the CACUP-ASLP accreditation process, which included a detailed self-study report and a review by external evaluators. The Graduate Diploma in Auditory-Verbal Studies Program is not, however, subject to professional accreditation.

The Graduate Program Evaluation Committee found that the programs have a number of strengths, including the strong commitment of faculty members and the Faculty of Health Sciences to ensuring that the programs meet high professional standards. The master's program established a new curriculum in 2012-2013, which ensures it more effectively meets the needs of graduates in terms of professional preparation and provides quality education and training to students. The master's program comprises an effective research component in the form of a final research project. The program has a very good record of student retention, timely completion and entry into the profession for graduates.
Areas for improvement

The Graduate Program Evaluation Committee noted that although the research component of the master's program is satisfactory, this component needs to be monitored and developed on an ongoing basis.

The Committee also noted that greater effort is needed to attract more students, particularly francophone students, to the Graduate Diploma in Auditory-Verbal Studies Program, which has been offered only once in French and twice in English since 2011.

The new curriculum for the master’s program will likely address issues of student satisfaction, but this element must be monitored as the new curriculum is implemented.

Recommendations

1. The unit must continue to monitor and develop the research component of the master’s program.
2. Efforts to attract students, particularly francophone students, to the graduate diploma program should be increased.
3. Student satisfaction should be monitored as the new curriculum is implemented and changes to policies and procedures should be made as necessary, without sacrificing rigor, to ensure a high level of satisfaction.
4. Continue efforts to meet high professional standards, including due attention to retention and times to completion.

Calendar and deadlines

Recommendations 1 through 4 are to be addressed in a report to be included during the next cyclical review, to be completed no later than July 1, 2018. Unless there are major changes to the professional accreditation process, a report should be submitted consisting of all the documentation related to this process along with a brief report addressing the program’s learning outcomes as it relates to the degree-level expectations, essential requirements, professors teaching in the program according to the categories established by the Graduate Program Evaluation Committee and the professors’ research funding and including a discussion of the findings of the Graduate and Professional Student Survey.

The Committee gave a rating of good quality for both the Master of Health Sciences in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology and the Graduate Diploma in Auditory-Verbal Studies programs.

The master’s degree and graduate diploma programs will undergo their next cyclical review at the same time. The reviews will be timed to coincide with the next professional accreditation, scheduled for 2016-2017.
Authority

The director of the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, the director of the graduate programs in audiology and speech-language pathology and the Vice-Dean responsible for graduate studies at the Faculty of Health Sciences are responsible for following up on these recommendations.