

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

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*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
  - o 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
  - o Large number of degrees
- Curriculum
  - o Considerable duplication of courses and faculty across TST member colleges

*The reviewers made the following recommendations:*

- Scope and priorities
  - o 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
  - o Consider expanding Jewish and Muslim professional education at TST
- Curriculum
  - o 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