2014-15 LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Queen’s began offering “extension” courses in 1889. Now in the 21st century, the Faculty of Arts and Science remains a trailblazer in distance education, offering online courses and programs distinguished by their exceptional quality.

Faculty of Arts and Science, through Continuing and Distance Studies (CDS), is committed to the essential student learning experience and community that is Queen’s, by creating an online learning environment that is rich, stimulating and challenging. We are invested in educational transformation and evidence-based practices that provide all our students with the best possible learning experiences.

Our Quality Blueprint

**A Queen’s Education**
- Courses are developed by Queen’s professors with a team of online learning and technology specialists.
- Online courses share the same learning outcomes as their classroom equivalents.

**Interactive**
- Courses are designed with a dedicated focus on active learning.
- Discussions, group work and live presentations connect students.
- Professors and TAs are engaged and responsive.

**Flexible**
- Students customize their course load to balance their work and family life with education.
- While assignments have fixed deadlines, students choose when and where to work on them.
- On-campus students take online courses to solve scheduling conflicts or to catch up or get ahead over the summer.

**Accessible**
- Students can take courses from anywhere in the world.
- Materials are accessible 24/7.
- Courses are designed using principles of Universal Design for Learning and meet AODA\(^1\) standards.

\(^1\) Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
Our Strategic Mandate

In 2012, based on the findings of a 2011 business case, the Faculty developed a strategic plan and committed to a multi-year investment to increase online courses and fully online programs.

To implement the plan, the Faculty also established appropriate infrastructure and quality standards for online learning, consistent with recommendations from the Senate Academic Planning Task Force Report on Virtualization and On-Line Learning 2012-13.

Now, expanding online learning opportunities is an integral component of the Faculty’s strategic plan to enhance the student learning experience and achieve financial sustainability in line with Queen’s University Strategic Framework 2014-2019.

STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Online courses are:
- developed using an evidence-based approach, starting with learning outcomes.
- designed to focus on active learning.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Expand offerings:
- attract new students and generate new revenue.
- provide flexible options to help manage the planned growth of on-campus enrolments.
Our Services

Continuing and Distance Studies, in partnership with academic departments at Queen’s:

- **Coordinates** the program of online course and degree plan offerings;
- Supports both the development and delivery of online courses;
- Provides one-on-one **student support and advising** by telephone, Skype or in-person;
- Supports the Faculty of Arts and Science in the development and delivery of first-year **blended learning** courses; and
- Provides **admission services** and academic support services to distance students through our own user-friendly application form (launched April 2012).

Our Students

In 2014-15, more than **4,000** students in Kingston, across Canada and around the world took online courses through CDS. These students were:

- On-campus **Queen’s students** looking to avoid schedule conflicts in the fall-winter, or to catch up or get ahead over the summer;
- **Non-traditional and mature students** looking to balance work, family, personal commitments, and education;
- **Lifelong learners** working towards a degree or taking courses out of interest;
- **Queen’s alumni** and other University graduates who enrol in courses required for applying to graduate school;
- **Teachers** looking to upgrade their qualifications through Continuing Teacher Education; and/or
- Students who were **unable to remain in Kingston** to complete their degree.
CDS in 2014-15

Our Offerings

- **80 online courses** in sciences, humanities and social sciences
- **Four online degrees** (Psychology, English, History, Global Development)
- **4,000+ online students** from around the world
- **Three academic sessions**: Fall, Winter and Summer terms (with 3 intensive summer sessions)

Our Achievements

Online Learning in Ontario
The importance of supporting online education is evident by the Ontario government’s 2013 decision to spend **$42 million** to establish a Centre of Excellence and a Shared Online Course Fund (ShOCF). These initiatives will drive new online learning opportunities for university and college students. The quality of Queen’s online learning is demonstrated by the 33 online course proposals that were awarded funding through ShOCF:

- **Round One (January 2014)**: Out of 67 successful proposals across Ontario, Queen’s was awarded **13** – the **highest number to one institution** – 12 of which were to the Faculty of Arts and Science; and
- **Round Two (October 2015)**: Out of 94 successful proposals across Ontario, Queen’s was awarded funding to develop or enhance **20** online courses, 13 of which were proposed by the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Blended Learning Initiative
From 2013-15, the Faculty implemented a course redesign project with the goal to increase engagement in large first year courses through active learning and small group work. Adapting an innovative course design known as blended learning – a **combination of classroom learning and online learning** – CDS supported the project by providing instructional design, web development and ongoing technology support for instructors and students. By 2014-15, more than ten courses were redesigned through this project.

“The positive results from this competition are vitally important to us at Queen's because we have some ambitious goals. We're trying to expand technology-enhanced learning opportunities for our students, and being part of Ontario Online provides us with strong credibility,” says Dr. Jill Scott, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning).
Student Learning Experience

Student Evaluation of Online Courses
Continuing and Distance Studies is now using a research-based online teaching assessment tool to obtain students’ feedback on the online course experience. This will help instructors fine-tune and improve their courses. Queen’s University Faculty Association and the University approved CDS to pilot this tool for the 2014-15 academic year.

Blended Learning Evaluation
Significant and sustained improvements in student engagement – particularly in active learning in the classroom, student-faculty interaction, and higher order thinking skills - have been shown through the Classroom Survey of Student Engagement (CLASSE), which has been used to measure engagement in blended learning courses over three years.
Financial Sustainability

Distance Enrolment as a New Revenue Source at Queen’s

Distance Enrolments by Plan Type

Total Revenue from Distance Enrolments (Including Tuition and Government Grants)

Student Enrolment Growth in Online Courses

Total On-Campus Enrolments in Online Courses (FTEs)

Total Distance Enrolments in Online Courses (FTEs)
LOOKING AHEAD

By the Numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Online Curriculum</th>
<th>Online Enrolments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of online courses</td>
<td># of new and revised courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional course offerings and fully online programs attract more distance students and increase revenue. Continuing and Distance Studies goals for 2016-17 include:

- Offering 43 new online courses
- Introducing one new degree plan
- Proposing two new certificate programs
AT A GLANCE

Mission: Provide distance students with access to Queen’s education (online degree students, visiting students from other institutions, interest students, adult learners, alumni). Provide flexible, accessible options and Summer Term offerings to on-campus students.

In 2014-15

80 Courses
4 Degree Plans
3 Academic terms
75 Profs teaching online
1220 FTEs

Online Course Enrolments
By Term - Distance and on-campus

Where Did Students Write Exams...

... All 13 provinces and territories in Canada and 29 countries around the world