Two Year Progress Report
Civil and Environmental Engineering (MSc/PhD)
September 2017; revised October 2019

Background
The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering offers graduate and undergraduate degrees in Civil Engineering and is one of the largest Civil and Environmental Engineering departments in the country. The last review of the graduate programs was completed in April 2015 by the reviewers Drs. Lye and Yanful and by the internal reviewer Dr. Liston. The report was generally quite positive, with the reviewers stating "Reviewers were of the opinion that the UW CEE graduate program is very strong and comparable to civil engineering programs at other top Canadian universities."

The report identified a number of issues and recommendations. The Department responded to the issues and has been working towards addressing the recommendations by the reviewers as described in the following sections.

Progress on Implementation Plan

Recommendations

1. There should be a clearer written policy in the calendar regarding minimum passing grades in engineering and course failures. The minimum passing grade in a graduate engineering course is not mentioned in the calendar. It is, however, mentioned that an overall average mark of 70% is required for progression.

Status: Complete
Details: The Website of the CEE Department has been significantly improved since the last review; in agreement with the changes in the website of the faculty of engineering. The minimum mark required to satisfy a course requirement has been included in the MENG description, and it will be updated for the other programs in the next set of modifications to the calendar approved by the Department and in the process for approval from the Senate. The website has been updated with the link to the Graduate Calendar for consistency (https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies-academic-calendar/general-information-and-regulations/grades-and-grading).

2. CEE should encourage and monitor the participation of CEE students in the new MASc and PhD Collaborative Water Program. Students should not miss this unique opportunity.

Status: Ongoing
Details: The Department is encouraging the participation of CEE students in the new MASc and PhD Collaborative Water Program in all the graduate studies information sessions. The participation of graduate students in these programs is monitored by the Graduate Coordinator as the information is required for the allocation of scholarships specific for these programs.

3. Inequalities in the quality of graduate student office space should be addressed. The plan to renovate current inadequate and dated offices being used by GEO graduate students is commendable and should be implemented.

Status: In progress

Details: The CEE Department has been working on a significant space renovation plan coordinated by the Chair and the Space Committee. Practically all student offices have been renovated. The Geotechnical engineering (GEO) graduate students have been relocated since the beginning of the Spring 2017 term while the main renovations of the final office space are completed. A $30,000 renovation of the offices of GEO students has been completed.

4. The 4 FTE faculty complement for the GEO group is the minimum and that UWaterloo should do all it can to increase or at least maintain this number. This should be considered mission critical.

Status: Completed
Details: The CEE Department approved a new position for the Geotechnical group. The DACA Geo made a recommendation, and the selected candidate was hired effective January 2018.

5. More graduate courses in the GEO area should be offered on a regular basis.

Status: Completed
Details: As per the previous recommendation, the new faculty member started in January 2018. Thus, the number of graduate courses will be improved on regular basis. The new faculty member has added a new graduate course.

6. The funding level for international MASc students should be increased so that sufficient funds are available for living expenses after the payment of fees.

Status: In progress
Details: The minimum funding for MASc students have been increased by the Faculty. While the faculties and GSPA decided to reallocate a portion of the IMSA to support domestic incentives, a new award, IMAE, was put in place to support International Master's students. The Department is currently discussing alternatives to increase the funding for all graduate students. The Department has approved the creation of specializations for the MENG program to increase the number of students. A percentage of the tuition is transferred to the department. Hence, it is
expected that the increased enrollment in the MENG program will create additional revenue to
improve the graduate program not only by increasing the number of graduate courses offered
per year, but also by providing better financial support to Canadians, Permanent Residents and
international students in the form of teaching assistantships. The department presented a
proposal for the new specializations. However, final approval has been delayed by the new
definitions of specializations from GSPA and the adoption of additional restrictions by the
Faculty of Engineering. The increase of GRS funding is still in progress at the Faculty level.

7. To encourage conference attendance and participation by graduate students, travel support
should be increased. The Department, faculty, Graduate Student Association and the University
could share this increase.

**Status:** In progress

**Details:** The Graduate Studies Committee is currently recommending to the Department the use
of the graduate fund, which is provided by the Faculty and the University, to enhance the
graduate experience in the CEE. One of the current proposals to the Department is to use part
of the graduate fund to support graduate students attending technical conferences. The
allocation of travel awards (e.g. $300 for matching GSPA travel awards; expected 5 awards per
year) is currently under discussion, with the hope to match funds for travel starting in early
2020. The data collection to determine the number of students attending conferences is in
progress.

**Explain any circumstances that have altered the original implementation plan:**

The CEE Department has been going through many challenges since the graduate review: selection of a new
Chair, implementation of the new resource allocation model, hiring of seventeen new faculty members,
massive space renovations, and the approval of the new Architectural Engineering Program. These activities
have slowed down the implementation of the recommendations from the reviewers. The effects of these
circumstances are expected to be reduced or eliminated in 2020.

**Address any significant developments or initiatives that have arisen since the program review process, or
that were not contemplated during the review:**

The creation of the new Architectural Engineering Program will require an enormous amount of time from all
the faculty and staff of the Department. This development will use a significant amount of resources for the
hiring of new faculty and staff members and the construction of new design studios. The Architectural
Engineering program has been approved and ten new faculty members will be added progressively to the CEE
department. Six of these positions have been filled to date: 2 faculty and 1 lecturer were hired in 2018, 1
lecturer was hired in 2019, and 2 additional faculty have been hired to start in 2020. Three of these positions
have been filled already (two faculty, one lecture); two of them started in Spring 2018. Two more position out
of the ten have been filled in 2019 (one faculty, one lecture). This new faculty complement will add new
graduate courses to our program over the next few years.
The Department Chair/Director, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty, shall be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan.

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1. Office space in the Faculty of Graduate Students

2. Collaborative Water Program

3. Inequities in the Quality of Graduate Student

4. The Minimum Passing Grade for Graduate

5. The Minimum Passing Grade for Graduate

6. The Minimum Passing Grade for Graduate

7. The Minimum Passing Grade for Graduate

The Department Chair/Director, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty, shall be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan.
Date of next program review: July 2021
Date

Signatures of Approval:

Carl Haas  
Chair/Director  
Date: Oct 7, 2019

Pearl Sullivan  
Faculty or Administrative Dean  
Date: Nov 4, 2019

Associate Vice-President, Academic  
(For undergraduate and augmented programs)  
Date

Jeff Casello  
Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies  
(For Graduate and augment programs)  
Date
Date of next program review:    

July 2021

Date

Signatures of Approval:

Carl Haas     
Chair/Director     
Dec. 9, 2019

Pearl Sullivan
Faculty or Administrative Dean

Associate Vice-President, Academic
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Jeff Casello
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Dec 9, 2019