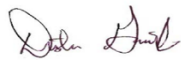
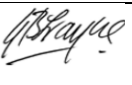

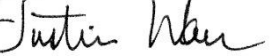


PROGRAM(S): COLLABORATIVE WATER PROGRAM (MASC, MARCH, MA, MES, MMATH, MSC, PHD) FEBRUARY 2025

Program information: *completed by AQUE Office*

Previous review period:	2020-2021	Next review period:	2027-2028
SUC/SGRC approval date:	3/4/2024		
Link to Final Assessment Report:	Final Assessment Report¹		

Signatures:

	Required	Signature	Date
Chair/Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		4/24/2025
AFIW Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>		Click or tap to enter a date.
Dean of ENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		5/3/2025
Dean of ENV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		5/7/2025
Dean of SCI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		5/7/2025
AFIW Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>		Click or tap to enter a date.
AVPA	<input type="checkbox"/>		Click or tap to enter a date.
AVPGSPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		4/4/2025

¹ Please note this program's FAR was approved less than one year before this report was prepared, which could explain any limited progress made on the recommendations since the approval of the FAR.

Enrollment (past three years): *completed by AQUE Office*

	Masters	PhD
2024-25 (CURRENT YR)	39	46
2023-24 (LAST YR)	48	54
2022-23 (LAST 2YRS)	47	55

Based on Active Students Extract from Quest on February 7, 2025.

Initiatives/Developments since the Final Assessment Report

N/A

Progress update on Implementation Plan

Please note that the CWP's Final Assessment Report (FAR) was approved in November 2023, therefore the period to implement its recommendations has been limited.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Our highest priority recommendation is a modest increase in CWP's annual base funding to reinstate high impact educational elements. These include the field components (at the scale they were done previously), the orientation / retreat for students, and the interdisciplinary international visiting fellows program.

Completed: ☐Yes ☐No ☒Partially

Progress: The fiscal context has shifted since these recommendations, and our focus has moved towards efficiencies. However, it is important to emphasize that these efficiencies do not compromise the program quality or pedagogy. By contrast, we have restored our three-day field trip (suspended during Covid) and built strategic and long-term partnerships with the Canadian Water Agency and Grand River Conservation Authority to support field learning, experiential activities, and workforce development. The efficiencies address:

- Reducing teaching costs by 50%;
- Phasing out TA roles after 2025;
- Securing alternative funding for field learning and other costs;
- Longer term, external funding via grants and philanthropy will focus on high impact, large-scale increases in budgets, including growing linkages between water and the global futures agenda.
- The existing funding model will expire at the end of 2025 as agreed with the Deans of Engineering, Environment, and Science in January 2025. Funding from external Collaborative Water Program grants will support the program for 2026 and 2027 while a new funding model is confirmed for 2028 and after, as outlined below in the section on next steps.

For the next two years (through 2027), the program committee for CWP has focused on efficiencies that will not require any change or cancellation of the action plans proposed in the FAR. For example, we have overhauled marketing and recruitment with existing resources, per recommendation #4 (leading to a 50% increase in new enrollments from 2024 to 2025).

Next steps (if applicable): The CWP Director, Water Institute and Program Committee to assess various long-term funding options for program. The program has secured core funding for 2026 and 2027, and has identified funding for long-term sustainability as part of its five-year strategic plan for 2026-2030, which is being released in late 2025. Funding options include a fee-for-service model (covering HQP training requirements across NSERC Create and other interdisciplinary grants) and potential field course surcharges that will cover core costs of approximately \$15,000/year. External grants will be used to build on that foundational support and ensure continued innovation and impact.

Additional comments: N/A

RECOMMENDATION 2: Our second highest recommendation is that the program would benefit from a formal process and database for tracking its graduates. This would include the elements noted above (e.g. their employment in water related fields), and could be used both to help quantitatively assess the success of the program, as well as a resource (e.g. for guest lectures, professional network) and for other alumni engagement.

Completed: ☐Yes ☐No ☒Partially

Progress: We have compiled a CWP alumni mailing list and created a CWP alumni network using the LinkedIn platform. The purpose of the network is to facilitate interactions among CWP alumni, to create a database of potential contributors to the CWP and to allow the program to track the career trajectories of graduates. The network currently includes about 150 members.

As part of an ongoing strategic review, we have surveyed alumni and current students and faculty with 70 responses. We are implementing evaluations of each course and cohort annually, and the program committee is preparing an article that summarizes the recent changes to the program pedagogy and a framework for tracking future impacts

Next steps (if applicable): The program will continue to encourage alumni to join the LinkedIn network and to facilitate interactions via the network. In addition, the program aims to integrate partner projects into WATER 602 from the alumni network.

Additional comments: N/A

RECOMMENDATION 3: We further recommend that the admissions process for CWP include a statement of interest by prospective students, and that the program explicitly encourage students from underrepresented groups.

Completed: ☐Yes ☒No ☐Partially

Progress: The CWP Program did not agree with this recommendation in the approved FAR. The program is however proactive in marketing and recruitment to eligible faculty across participating faculties, departments and schools and strive for balance in terms of disciplines, geography, and beyond. While the program does not track demographics, we have large cohorts of students from around the world and from diverse backgrounds.

Next steps (if applicable): The Water Institute and the CWP Director will continue to work with central and faculty Advancement officers to identify potential donors who may support targeted student scholarships to incent participation from students from underrepresented groups.

Additional comments: N/A

RECOMMENDATION 4: Finally, we recommend that the program could be better advertised and packaged in order to be an effective recruiting tool for graduate students to the University of Waterloo.

Completed: ☐Yes ☐No ☒Partially

Progress: The CWP Director and Water Institute have implemented a number of initiatives to improve program marketing, including:

- updating the program website;
- distribution of a CWP postcard with updated messaging;
- launching a twice annual CWP newsletter;
- regular posts on LinkedIn;
- features in WI newsletter;
- direct messages to 130 faculty.

Next steps (if applicable): Opportunities to improve and expand CWP marketing are a standing agenda item at program committee meetings and a priority for the Water Institute communications team.

Additional comments: N/A

CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW PROGRESS REPORT

	Recommendations	Proposed Actions	Responsibility for Leading and Resourcing (if applicable) the Actions	Timeline for addressing Recommendations
1.	Modest increase in CWP's annual base funding.	<p>The Water Institute to support WATER 602 cohort building overnight retreat for 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>The CWP Director and Water Institute to discuss potential increase in core annual funding with Deans of Engineering, Environments and Science during program funding renewal discussions in 2024.</p> <p>The CWP Director, Water Institute and Program Committee to assess various long-term funding options for program.</p>	<p>Water Institute</p> <p>CWP Director, Water Institute</p> <p>CWP Director, Water Institute, Program Committee</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>2025-26</p>
2.	Formal process and database for tracking its graduates.	The Water Institute to establish and maintain alumni database.	Water Institute	Complete, ongoing
3.	Admissions process for CWP include a statement of interest by prospective students, and that the program explicitly encourage students from underrepresented groups.	<p>Statement of interest not implemented.</p> <p>Work with Advancement Officers to identify potential donors that would support targeted scholarships for underrepresented groups.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>CWP Committee, Water Institute</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
4.	Program could be better advertised and packaged in order to be an effective recruiting tool.	The Water Institute, in consultation with central units, participating faculty, departments and schools and other stakeholders, to develop and implemented renewed CWP marketing and promotions plan.	Water Institute, CWP Committee	Complete, ongoing

The Department Chair/Director, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty shall be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan.