1 YEAR FOLLOW-UP REPORT
Submitted to YSGPS: February 21, 2025
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Graduate Program:	**Dietetics (PMDip)**
Peer Review Team:	Dr. Jennifer Taylor, University of PEI Dr. Brenda Hartman, Brescia University College Dr. Esther Ignagni, Toronto Metropolitan University.
Site Visit:	October 17-18, 2023 on-site
PRT Report:	Nov 27, 2023
Program Response:	January 29, 2024
YSGPS Response:	March 28, 2024
Approved by Senate:	May 28, 2024
1 Year Follow Up Due:	May 28, 2025

As mandated by Toronto Metropolitan University Senate Policy 126: Periodic Program Review of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs[1], within one year of Senate approval of the PPR, a 1 Year Follow-Up Report is to be submitted to the Faculty Dean or Dean of Record and the Vice-Provost and Dean, YSGPS, on the progress of the implementation plan and any further recommendations. This follow-up report will also be reviewed by the Programs and Planning Committee, YSGPS Council, and finally the Senate. The PPR Report to Senate may also include a date(s) for subsequent Follow-up Reports.

What follows are the PRT recommendations, the program responses, YSGPS responses, and the implementation plan, including the 1 year follow-up status reports by the program.

[1] "Policy 126: Periodic Program Review of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs," Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), accessed November 20, 2024, https://www.torontomu.ca/senate/policies/periodic-program-review-of-graduate-and-undergraduate-programs-policy-126/.

PRT RECOMMENDATIONS, PROGRAM/FACULTY DEAN/YSGPS RESPONSES + PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND 1 YEAR FOLLOW UP

PRT Recommendations	PRT Rationale	Dietetics Program Response	Dean of Faculty of Community Services Response	Proposed Program Action	Program Timeline and Responsibility/Lead	YSGPS Response	1 year follow up
Recommendation 1: Work with TMU Advancement Services to attain funding for PMDip students	PMDip students are not currently eligible for OSAP funding, and it is unlikely that this is going to change in the near future because of the structure of graduate school funding in Ontario. A lack of funding was identified as a significant EDIA issue and should be addressed immediately.	Our program has already begun discussing alternate approaches regarding this recommendation with the Dean of Faculty of Community Services (FCS) and Yates School of Graduate and Postgraduate Studies (YSGPS). We have discussed a pilot approach for winter 2024 which involves rolling 15 PMDip student positions into our MHSc. These 15 temporary seats were granted for a winter 2024 cohort. These students will have access to OSAP and more student awards. They will continue to get the same hospital/nutrition care experience as our PMDip students. We	Given that budget cuts and the current financial climate will continue to be a challenge at TMU for some time, we do not anticipate increasing funding support to the program anytime soon. Donor funding is never a guarantee, even with the support of University Advancement. We will continue to work with the program to assess and support alternative models/approaches to meet PMDip students' funding needs, such as possibilities for expanding the MHSc program with another cohort of students who would have applied to the PMDip program. Converting the PMDIp program into a model for training internationally trained	Continue working with the Dean of FCS and YSGPS to implement and evaluate a winter 2024 cohort pilot where 15 PMDip student positions are transferred into our MHSc program. These 15 students will have access to OSAP and more student awards. Evaluate the outcome of the pilot over the Winter semester. Based on the result of the pilot, we will assess whether these 15 MHSc seats can be made permanent within the program. Promote available TMU bursaries among PMDip	Fall 2024 - Expand the eligibility for the Patricia Jensen award to all graduate nutrition students. This has now been approved and will be implemented in Fall for PMDip students to apply to. Fall 2025 - Assess the outcome of the MHSc pilot (April 2025), which will then inform next steps.	YSGPS continues to advocate for increased student funding and reduced graduate program tuition. Noting that graduate student funding from the University is currently significant, it encourages the program to look into ways to increase contributions from other sources. This recommendation is related to the additional recommendation #5 below. YSGPS has been working with the program to pilot of increasing the domestic intake of the related MHSc in Nutrition Communication program and reducing the PMDip intake. The performance of the pilot is being evaluated. YSGPS will also assist the program in coordinating with TMU's newly named Assistant Vice-President, International to facilitate converting the PMDIp program into a model for training internationally trained dietitians.	We have made the Patricia Jenson Award (One annual award of approximately $1,750 for incoming first year nutrition graduate) available to both PMDip and MHSc students in 2025. Selection is based on submission of a brief personal statement and letter of reference, with preference given to applicants which the program determines are underrepresented and in financial need. Student demand for the PMDip program has significantly declined over the past two years, with only six students currently enrolled. Additionally, two of the four hospital partners have withdrawn from the PMDip program and are now fully integrated into the MHSc pilot, offering 16-weeks of guaranteed clinical training

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		will evaluate the outcome of this change over the Winter semester. Based on the result of the pilot, we will advocate to make these 15 MHSc seats permanent within the faculty The PMDip still remains a less expensive option and shorter program for students who do not want a master's degree. We want to continue offering the PMDip as another viable option for students to become dietitians. However, the PMDIP model, in training students to become clinical dietitians with our clinical partners, may not be the best model given other expanding competencies that students need to	dietitians is a promising model and our Associate Dean of Graduate Studies/Internationalization will support the program in this endeavour.	students during orientation. We have reached out to a long-time donor to request that we expand the eligibility for the Patricia Jensen award to all graduate nutrition students. Currently this award is only for MHSc Nutrition Communication students. This change has been approved and this award will be available to PMDip and MHSc students in Fall 2024			placements to 17 of our MHSc students. However, the two other hospital partners continue to be engaged in both the PMDip and MHSc pilot. As reflected in the MHSc pilot evaluation, feedback from partners, preceptors, and students—has been positive, with suggestions for improvement that are feasible to implement in year 2. All current partners plan to continue with the next pilot year. Given the decline in PMDip enrollment, we hope to grow the MHSc pilot to expand guaranteed clinical training opportunities for students. We are also in ongoing discussions with the Ontario College of Dietitians, the Faculty, and YSGPS about adapting the PMDip program into a model designed to support internationally educated dietitians. This proposed model would

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		meet (mentioned elsewhere) as hospitals do not have the resources to expand their program to address these competencies. Therefore, we have discussed with the Dean/Associate Dean the idea of adapting the PMDIp program into a model for training internationally trained dietitians to obtain their experiential learning competencies for professional practice. We will also continue to seek funding support for our existing PMDip students. Limited bursaries in the range of $1000 per award are available through TMU and have been held by past and present students.					include two years of undergraduate coursework for academic upgrading, followed by three semesters of practicum placements through the PMDip model, helping these individuals meet the experiential learning competencies required for professional practice.

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		However, historically, many of our PMDip students have not received this award. More can be done to promote these bursaries during orientation and make sure our partners are aware of this.					

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Recommendation 2: Human Resources	We know that the PMDip program has adequate support through the Ancillary fees. This is appropriate given that most of the program is delivered off campus. As the PMDip program is phased into the MHSc, staffing resources should be consistent with increased needs. We endorse the recommendation in the self-study report that a full time management and 0.5 administrative support positions be added. They need staffing	We are in transition in obtaining a full time Program Administrator (PA) for the Graduate Program. The Dean of FCS is briefed on the situation, and we have hired a part time PA for the summer to assist with the winter cohort. We expect to have a full time PA for the program by the end of August 2024. Having a full-time PA is in line with other departments within the faculty with similar graduate enrolment. Furthermore, given the demand and current growth of the program we are long	We will continue to assess the human resource needs of the program. As we review and discuss changes to the PMDip program, we will also undertake a review of administrative support and make changes as necessary. A meeting is scheduled with the Program (Director and GPD) and YSGPS on Feb 26, 2024, to review the pilot cohort for the MHSc program. Human resources will also be discussed at that time.	In communication with the Dean of FCS about obtaining a full time Program Administrator (PA) for the Graduate Program and hiring a part time PA for the summer to assist with the MHSc winter cohort. A job description has been drafted for a MAC Experiential Learning Manager that will be funded through open electives revenue sharing and the graduate program ancillary fees.	March 2024 to assess initial resource needs related to MHSc pilot.	Resources for such staffing is outside the purview of YSGPS, but we are supportive of finding ways to ensure adequate administrative support for a high-quality graduate student experience that stays proportionate with growth or other program changes.	We have received additional support in the form of a non-union contract employee from the Faculty of Community Services to assist the Program Administrator (PA) of the graduate program. However, this has had an unintended consequence: instead of reducing the PA's workload, it has added to it, as she now has to regularly meet with and delegate tasks to the new employee. We continue to advocate for a full-time PA at every opportunity. Currently, there is no support to be able to obtain the MAC Experiential Learning Manager position due to budget constraints, and there has been no progress towards or indication of support for this role, at this time. We will

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	coordination to support high quality graduates through both curriculum and placement. These are complex placements which require a lot of support staff, burnout is likely.	overdue for a full-time PA. We have briefed the Dean of FCS regarding a MAC Experiential Learning Manager. A job description has been drafted for this position. We need to finalize the revenue sharing options from our open electives and need to increase graduate program ancillary fees to fund this position. This position will have both graduate and undergraduate responsibilities. As well, bring additional support to the existing 2.0 FTE Practicum Coordinators.					continue to discuss this with our Dean.
Recommendation 3: EDIA related	The PRT agrees with the Self-Study Report that EDIA can and should be enhanced in the PMDip program.	We recognize the importance of enhancing the EDIA within the curriculum. EDIA content is also	The plans for improving EDI related content in the PMDip program are judicious. It is understood that with the majority of PMDip	We currently have an ABR module that was developed for the MHSc program. We will expand and transform the	Fall 2024 to roll out Anti-Black Racism Pressbooks module to PMDip students.	The benefits of measures to address diversity and accessibility in research, education, and clinical practice are tremendous. YSGPS commends the Program and Faculty on their current and proposed initiatives to further integrate	We have secured funding from the Faculty of Community Services (FCS) in the form of an Anti-Black Racism Curriculum Development Fund and the

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	Throughout the site visit, students, alumni, staff, and partners spoke to the diversity of the GTA and to the income barriers faced by students. However, how EDIA was integrated into student recruitment, selection, and education/training, including hospital placements, was largely unaddressed in the review and the site visit. There are opportunities for TMU to work with partner hospitals to develop an EDIA lens in the program. This will set up the PMDip to take on a leadership role as dietetic programs undergo similar	included in the new ICDEPs (competencies). We are in year three of an anti-black racism (ABR) module that we developed for our MHSc. We revise the module yearly based on student feedback and recently received funding to expand and transform the module into a pressbook that we can share as an open access resource with our PMDip students. If the PDMip is rolled into the MHSc this curriculum is already embedded into the program. We have started an Anti-Indigenous racism module in dietetics, and we are in discussion with the Northern Dietetics Internship	students being rolled into the MHSc program in winter 2024, where EDI content is already embedded, that this recommendation will be largely addressed. However, the program is applauded on plans to seek further university funding to further enrich the curriculum with EDIA content. One such funding option is our FCS ABR Curriculum Development Fund.	module into a pressbook for PMDip students. We have applied and received funding from the Faculty of Community Services (FCS) Anti-Black Racism Curriculum Development Fund. Feb 2024 and were awarded - $9,965. We have also applied for funding from 2024-2025 Learning and Teaching Grant Application Form: Project title: Anti-Black Racism in Dietetic Practice. We are collaborating with the Northern Dietetics Internship Program an Anti-Indigenous racism module in dietetics. We will	Further content in this area will be assessed following the MHSc pilot and to be implemented in Fall 2025	EDIA into the curriculum and develop additional resources and is happy to help in any way that it can to continue and enhance such activities.	2024–2025 Learning and Teaching Grant to further develop our *Anti-Black Racism in Dietetic Practice* Pressbook. This resource will be piloted in the spring/summer offerings of our MHSc program courses. Evaluation feedback from the MHSc pilot will inform revisions and support national dissemination. We also plan to share the Pressbook with our hospital partners for use by their preceptors and with our PMDip students. While Indigenous pedagogies have not yet been fully integrated across the MHSc curriculum, this has been identified as an area of opportunity. We aim to incorporate Indigenous perspectives into our new clinical preparation seminar course (NC8104B) and Individual Health Behaviour (NC8102) courses through readings, simulation activities, and case studies.

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	transitions across the country.	Program to complete this module together. We will seek more university funding to expand these efforts to develop, evaluate and continue to revise this content. Pulling students away from placement for in-class learning has been a challenge. However, we can propose developing a course and front load it for the PDMDip students and only offer two semesters of placement. Or we can integrate this content as a bootcamp as we have done with the clinical bootcamp. We plan to review NC8300 to better integrate EDI and		seek more university funding to develop, evaluate, and revise this content. We plan to review NC8300 to better integrate EDI and clinical practice. Potentially creating EDI related assignments to discuss issues of food sovereignty and food access as we do in NC8109 (Food Policy Course) in the MHSc program. We will have a better idea of how to proceed with these plans after results from our pilot to merge the PMDip into the MHSc			Because the PMDip is a practice based diploma it has been challenging to incorporate more EDI in the curriculum as they only take one required course at TMU to fulfill their health promotion competencies. However, in this course marginalized and equity deserving populations are discussed in reference to conducting a needs assessment. As the PMDIp numbers decline, they will be joining our MHSc for NC8300. We will work with faculty to integrate more EDI in that course. In addition, we are committed to advancing a holistic admissions process to expand graduate opportunities for underrepresented groups. We continue to support the integration of EDI content and reflective opportunities across all graduate programs in the

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		clinical practice. Potentially creating EDI related assignments to discuss issues of food sovereignty and food access as we do in NC8109 (Food Policy Course) in the MHSc program. Furthermore, EDI is already embedded in the capstone project in NC8300. Students conduct a needs assessment, develop, implement and evaluate an intervention, in low income/high needs areas in Toronto. Given that PMDip enrollment is down to 7 students next year due to hospital partners' interest in reserving practical training spots for the MHSc pilot, we plan to merge our PMDip and MHSc cohorts					School of Nutrition, including the PMDip program.

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		into one NC8300 section. We are in discussion with our hospital partners to confirm this plan. Our hospital partners currently have limited resources to offer placements to students each year. They are not able to support the same number of PMDip students in addition to MHSc students. Furthermore, two hospital partners (North York General Hospital and Unity Health Toronto) have decided to not continue with the PMDip program due to internal decision making to align dietetics training with all other health disciplines that they support. For these reasons we will see a decline in PMDip					

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		enrollment for the 2024-2025 academic year. We will continue to monitor enrollment data for both PMDip and MHSc programs.					
Recommendation 4: Enhance the research component of PMDip.	The NC 8300 capstone project provides some competencies which are supplemented by journal club activities offered through the hospitals. This is not ideal, as this increases the responsibilities for preceptors. There are barriers to achieving research competencies in hospital settings due to limited resources. Leveraging a partnership with the School of	Given our PMDip students' accreditation exams success, there is clear evidence that they are achieving their research competencies. The PRT team also stated in their report: "*The Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination (CDRE) for PMDip exceeds the provincial (73.2%) and national (75.4%) rates at 81.8%. Based on this evidence, the review committee is therefore confident that the content of the program has, to*	The explanation provided by the program regarding this recommendation is understood. We support the program's position on this.	No further action will be taken on this recommendation.	N/A	YSGPS supports the position of the program and Faculty on this recommendation.	No further action will be taken on this recommendation.

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	Medicine could provide opportunities for students. We support TMUs recommendation to review the timing of the courses including front loading NC 8300 into the first term as this would create the opportunity to enhance the research component in the NC 8300 capstone project.	*date, met all required competencies).”* (PRT Report - Bottom of Pg. 3). The research competency for entry level dietetics is for practice-based research, not intensive research programs. As such, this research competency is the responsibility of our hospital partners. Accordingly, all partners have journal clubs and focus on how research is applied and interpreted for clinical practice. In NC8300 students are exposed to evaluation research (conducting a needs assessment, developing, implementing, and evaluating within					

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		their capstone projects) In addition, the PMDip is a master's diploma not a master's degree where more of a focus is on procedural research skills. It is important to note, that of the 200 dietetic competencies only 5 are dedicated to research.					
Recommendation 5: Gradually integrate the PMDip into the MHSc practicum program	The number of students enrolling in the PMDip program is declining, in part due to a lack of student funding. In contrast, more students are choosing the MHSc program, in part because of increased funding availability. PMDip staff are implementing a	We are currently piloting an extra cohort of 15 MHSc students in the winter of 2024. Our PMDip partners are involved and have dedicated student positions to assess a new MHSc nutrition care steam model. The Dean of FCS and Associate Dean of YSGPS are supportive of this pilot and have approved a second	We support the current pilot to integrate PMDip students into the MHSc program. Further discussions will help understand how the PMDip program can be effectively adapted to grow international student enrolment.	The program has begun a pilot to integrate 15 PMDip students into the MHSc program starting in winter 2024. We will assess this new MHSc nutrition care steam model to decide on next steps.	Fall 2025	YSGPS will coordinate with the program when it assesses the outcome of the 2nd year of its pilot to provide advice and feedback that builds upon a successful first year of this initiative.	The response for this recommendation is embedded in the response for Recommendation 1 (see above).

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	pilot in January 2024 whereby a total of 50 students (from both the PMDip and the MHSc programs) will complete placements. We recommend that this pilot be evaluated and that PMDip faculty and staff consider expanding it to more hospitals in the short term. In the long term, we recommend that TMU consider transitioning the PMDip students into the MHSc practicum program.	year of the pilot by adding 15 additional seats to the MHSc program for a winter 2025 cohort. We are happy to report that as of March 20, 2024 all 50 domestic seats have been filled. We are also able to accept 6 International students as a result of balancing the domestic intake between the two cohorts to accommodate our classroom sizes. The Dean of FCS and Associate Dean of YSGS are well aware of this pilot. A meeting is already scheduled in late February 2024 to discuss the initial implementation of the pilot and its future in terms of seat allocation and student offers for the 2024/25					

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		school year. This pilot will provide some evidence to steer the direction of how the PMDip (clinical internships) are delivered in the future.					

Summary Statement/Conclusion:

The PRT report recognized the strengths of the PMDip program but recommended improvements in four areas: (1) human resources, (2) EDIA, (3) integration with the MHSc program, and (4) research opportunities. This one-year PPR follow-up report addresses these recommendations.

We have made progress in enhancing EDIA, and the integration of the PMDip into the MHSc program is underway. However, the MHSc pilot expansion—from 35 to 50 students—requires additional practicum coordinator support funded through ancillary fees and a full-time program administrator funded by the faculty. Addressing these staffing needs remains a challenge and will require ongoing discussions with the Dean of FCS.

Due to low enrollment in the PMDip program, we are exploring an alternative model to better support internationally educated dietitians in meeting their experiential learning competencies. In collaboration with the Faculty Dean and YSGPS, we will pursue this approach strategically and with financial sustainability in mind.

The School of Nutrition and its graduate program appreciates the support from FCS and YSGPS throughout the PPR process. We look forward to their continued collaboration as we implement these recommendations to enhance the program and improve the graduate student experience.