



# Executive Summary

Geology Undergraduate Program Review  
(2022-23)



**External Reviewers:**

- Dr. Nancy Van Wagoner, Professor, Geology, Thompson Rivers University;
- Dr. Craig Nichol, Associate Department Head, Associate Professor, Department of Teaching Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences, University of British Columbia
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**Internal Chair:**

Dr. Scott Edgar, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Saint Mary's University

**Site-visit Dates:** November 20-21, 2023

**Report Date:** May 8, 2024

## Overview

Prior to the site visit, reviewers were provided with a copy of the Geology Department's self-study document and the Faculty of Science Dean's response, and various Saint Mary's University (SMU) supporting documents such as the policy on academic reviews, the SMU Vision and Mission, Academic Plan and the Strategic Research Plan.

This academic program review was conducted over Zoom on November 20 and 21, 2023. The review committee met with: the Interim Vice-President, Academic & Research, Dr. Madeline VanderPlaat; the Dean, Dr. Sam Veres, and Associate Dean of Science- Curriculum, Dr. Roby Austin; the Chair of the Geology Department, Dr. Erin Adlakha; the Director of the School of the Environment, Dr. Tony Charles; the Regional Analytical Centre Technician, Dr. Xiang Yang; department technicians, Dr. Mitchell Kerr and Dr. Simone Booker; Administrative Support person, Nargis Raeisi; science program advisors Courtney Kyle, Tara Whitney and Laura Johnston; and librarian, Hansel Cook. The committee met as a group with the Full-time and Emeritus Faculty; the part-time and Adjunct Faculty; current students; and Geology program alumni. The site visit was completed virtually, and therefore the committee did not do a live tour of department teaching or other space during the virtual sessions, but they were provided with pictures of laboratory and other spaces.

Reviewers noted that they conducted a brief review of the SMU calendar and website; programs at other Nova Scotia universities and colleges; national enrolment data from the Canadian Council of Chairs of Earth Science Departments (CCCESD); and licensure requirements from Geoscientists Canada.

The review was confined to the undergraduate programs except where the undergraduate and graduate programs are intertwined.

The review committee provided a list of 19 recommendations under the following headings: Major (9), Links with Industry and Job Preparation (4), EDIA and Supporting Indigenous Communities (3), and Other (3).