

SUBJECT	NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT POLICY
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BACKGROUND

Northern College is committed to ensuring that its academic programs meet and exceed the Ontario College standards and expectations for quality and relevance. All academic programs leading to a Northern College credential must reflect the College’s values focusing on quality, student success, and value to the student and the community.

POLICY

New academic programs must align with Northern College’s mission, vision, and values, strategic mandate agreement, the objectives in its strategic and academic plans.

The development of all new academic programs must conform to the New Academic Program Development Procedure, which includes consideration for educational pathways, availability of qualified faculty, teaching and evaluation methods, physical space and resource requirements, program cost and sustainability, integration of experiential learning, and incorporation of applied research. Program development must be an evidence-informed and collaborative process with all appropriate stakeholders.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the development of any new academic program delivered by any Northern College individual or entity initiating the development of a new academic program.

DEFINITIONS

Program Standards for Ontario College Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, and Graduate Certificates:

The published provincial program standard for postsecondary programs includes the following elements:

- a) Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLOs): the career-specific learning outcomes that apply to the program, as well as elements of performance.
- b) Essential Employability Skills (EESs): are general learning outcomes that are critical for success in the workplace, in daily life, and for lifelong learning, regardless of a student’s

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chosen area of study. These outcomes address communication, math, teamwork, critical thinking and decision-making skills, and are applicable to Ontario College Certificate, Diploma, and Advanced Diploma programs.

- c) General Education requirements: a selection of general education courses is required for Ontario College Certificate, Diploma, and Advanced Diploma programs. These courses strengthen students' skills in critical analysis, problem solving, and communication, providing students with the opportunity to explore topics beyond their chosen field of study. General education courses contribute to the development of citizens who are conscious of the diversity, complexity and richness of the human experience, and can contribute thoughtfully, creatively, and positively to the society in which they live and work.

Program Descriptions for Ontario College Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Graduate Certificates: include a program purpose, vocational learning outcomes, and system-level admission requirements.

Program Structure and Standards for three-year degree programs offered by an Ontario College normally comprise at a minimum:

- a) Program Learning Outcomes: a series of measurable statements which, taken together, describe what graduates can do with the learned body of knowledge, the set of skills, and the attitudes or values considered important for success in the discipline. Program Learning Outcomes also clarify the program's purpose and objectives for students and instructors in order to improve communication, shared expectations, and program coherence
- b) Six (6) semesters or the equivalent in an applied area of study; 300 hours of full-time or part-time equivalent paid work prior to graduation related to the professional field of study.
- c) Adherence to the Degree level Standards outlined on the Ontario Credentials Framework approved by the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB)

PRINCIPLES/GUIDELINES

All programs are subject to regular program review processes, in alignment with Ontario College Quality Assurance Standards (OCQAS) or the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB).

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New non-degree academic programs must meet the following Ministry requirements:

- a) Validation from the Credentials Validation Service (CVS) which has confirmed that the proposed program of instruction conforms to the Credential Framework and is consistent with accepted nomenclature.
- b) There is either demonstrated labour market and student demand, or societal need and student demand for the program.
- c) A relevant program advisory committee is in place and has recommended the program.
- d) The program content and delivery are, and will be, compliant with all requirements of regulatory bodies responsible for the field of study or other regulatory bodies related to the field of study.
- e) The program meets the relevant program standards where they exist, essential employability skills and general education requirements.
- f) The College's Board of Governors and President have approved the program of instruction.

For new three-year degree programs, applications must be submitted to PEQAB for review and recommendation to the Minister. Degree program completion pathways providing graduates of non-degree programs with block transfer of credit must also be submitted.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Office of the Senior Vice-President Academic and Student Success is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy.

The Northern College Board of Governors is responsible for final approval of all new academic programs.

APPROVED BY PRESIDENT



March 19, 2024

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Date

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REFERENCES

- Ontario Qualifications Framework (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-qualifications-framework>)
- Ontario College Qualify Assurance Standards (<https://www.ocqas.org/>)
- Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (<http://www.peqab.ca/index.html>)

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