



GENERAL EDUCATION AND DEGREE BREADTH POLICY

Authorizer: Vice President Academic / Student Affairs and Human Resources

Reference Code: V3

Effective Date: April 29, 2009

POLICY STATEMENT:

Curriculum at Conestoga is central to the function of meeting community, employer, government and student needs. The design, development and delivery of general education and degree breadth courses at Conestoga takes into account Conestoga's strategic plan, workforce needs, program content, currency and sustainability, and Ministerial, regulatory and accrediting body requirements.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all programs offered at Conestoga that are governed by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' Minister's Binding Policy Directive: Framework for Programs of Instruction.

DEFINITIONS:

Course

A distinct and discrete teaching and learning framework, containing content that has been approved by an expert source, usually structured to be delivered over an identified period of time, with measurable learning outcomes, and formal student evaluation.

Curriculum

A plan for learning that is coordinated and articulated in a manner designed to result in the achievement by students of specific knowledge and skills and the application of this knowledge. Curriculum refers to the content (the material to be learned), the actions and resources involved in teaching and learning and processes for evaluating the attainment of educational objectives and is driven by learning outcomes.

Degree Breadth Course

A course that engages students enrolled in a degree in learning beyond their vocational field of study. The course will fall into one of the following five MTCU mandated fields: humanities, social science, science, math, and global cultures.

General Education Course

A course in a diploma or advanced diploma program that engages students in learning beyond their vocational field of study. The course will fall into at least one of the following five MTCU mandated themes: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science and Technology.

Ministry of College and Universities (MCU)

The Ministry of College and Universities has the function of assessing all program proposals for determination of appropriate code classification, funding weights and parameters, and program titling.

Program of Study

A planned and coordinated selection of courses delivered to an identified student body leading to a certificate, diploma, degree or other credential awarded by the Board of Governors.

POLICY ELABORATION:

The purpose of general education and degree breadth electives is to provide graduates with the skills and knowledge to explore themes and disciplines beyond their vocational studies.

General education and degree breadth courses cultivate critical and creative thinking skills, civic engagement and knowledge of the broader world of arts, culture and science. They contribute to the development of engaged citizens, able to participate creatively and positively to their community.

The development and delivery of general education and degree breadth curriculum will support Conestoga's mission to serve community needs and priorities and empower individuals to achieve their potential. General education and degree breadth will be implemented as follows, in accordance with Ministerial requirements:

General Education (for diploma/advanced diploma programs)

All diploma and advanced diploma programs will incorporate the required number of general education electives outside of the program of study from the following themes:

- Arts in Society
- Civic Life
- Social and Cultural Understanding
- Personal Understanding
- Science and Technology

Degree Breadth (for degree programs)

All degree programs will incorporate the required number of breadth electives outside of the vocational field of study, contributing to knowledge in at least two of the following fields of study:

- Humanities
- Social science
- Math
- Science

- Global Cultures
- Business*

*As reviewed by PEQAB (2012)

REFERENCES:

Binding Policy Directive: Framework for Programs of Instruction, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
2005 Post Secondary Education Quality Assessment Board, Manual for Ontario Colleges, 2018.

Course Development Procedure
 Course Review Procedure
 Program Development Procedure
 Program Review Procedure

REVISION LOG:

April 7, 2009	Academic Forum
April 15, 2009	Policies and Procedures Committee
April 29, 2009	Academic Coordinating Committee
January 27, 2014	Academic Forum
February 4, 2014	Policy and Procedure Committee
April 2, 2014	Academic Coordinating Committee
March 4, 2019	Academic Forum
March 20, 2019	Academic Coordinating Committee

Appendix

Post-secondary diploma and certificate programs at Conestoga College will comply with Ministry of College and Universities (MCU) policies. General education and breadth requirements are delivered as follows:

Requirement	Program Credential				
	Ontario College Certificate	Ontario College Diploma	Ontario College Advanced Diploma	Ontario College Graduate Certificate*	Honours Baccalaureate Degree
General education courses required	Encouraged but not required	3 - 5	3 – 5	-	-
Degree breadth courses required	-	-	-	-	20% of program hours
Elective courses required	-	-	-	-	1
Advanced level courses required	-	-	-	-	1

*Ontario College Graduate Certificate programs do not require general education elective courses, degree breadth courses, elective courses or advanced level courses.