

# **PROJECT NUMBER 2014-25 – INTEGRATED LEARNING PROGRAMS (ILPs) FOR UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE COLLABORATIVE DEGREES IN ONTARIO**

## **FINAL REPORT TO ONCAT**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Today's employers need students with practical skills, excellent education and the ability to think creatively, innovate, and solve complex problems. The aim of this project was to create a new program model to integrate university degree and college diploma curricula into a single, four-year degree/diploma program. Based upon the successful partnership between Carleton University and Algonquin College in the delivery of their Bachelor of Information Technology programs, the Integrated Learning Program (ILP) model is designed to maximize institutional strengths, integrate university and college learning outcomes, reduce duplication and redundancies, and decrease the time to get highly qualified and trained graduates into employment.

The ILP project was a collaborative initiative between two universities (Carleton and OCAD U) and two colleges (George Brown and Algonquin). The aim of the project was to develop a generic ILP model that could be used by any partnering university and college in Ontario to develop an ILP degree based upon an existing college diploma. The generic template was developed using three program developments between the four partnering institutions: a business administration degree in Finance between Carleton and George Brown College, which will integrate George Brown's Advanced Diploma in Finance with Carleton's Bachelor of Commerce degree for a Bachelor in Financial Services; a degree in Fashion Concept Design between GBC and OCAD U that will integrate GBC's Fashion Techniques and Design Diploma program and OCAD U's Material Art & Design program; and a new Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) program in Information Resource Management (IRM) between Carleton and Algonquin based upon Algonquin's two-year Library and Information Technician diploma program.

#### Project Management

The ILP Project Steering Committee met three times during the course of the project, twice at Carleton (May 2014 and March 2015) and once at George Brown (October 2014). In between there were numerous meetings between the partners both for the development of the three new programs and the development of the generic templates. The generic template forms part of the deliverables to ONCAT while the three programs will be finalized and completed after the completion of the ONCAT project as they constitute the IP of the partnering institutions and require appropriate internal and external approvals before they can be implemented.

#### ONCAT Deliverables

There are two deliverables that are being provided to ONCAT as a result of this project.

1. *University-College Integrated Learning Program (ILP) Template*: This template has been developed using the experience between Carleton and Algonquin College in the development of the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) degree, and through testing on the development of a new BIT program in Information Resource Management and on the development of a Bachelor of Financial Services between Carleton and George Brown College. Further testing was undertaken in the exploration of program options between George Brown College and OCAD U. This generic template covers the administrative, academic, regulatory, and financial processes to be followed by a university and a college wishing to develop an ILP degree program based upon an existing college diploma. The template defines the processes for the development of the pathways and bridges (if necessary) based on a learning outcomes framework of an integrated curriculum which meets the academic requirements of both the degree and the diploma, as well as the administrative and regulatory processes and procedures required to manage the operational relations between the two institutions and the students in the program. This template is based upon the Ontario Quality Assurance Framework, including the procedures and steps in the program development, assessment and approval processes; however, it would be possible for institutions outside Ontario to use the template and adapt it to the provincial quality assurance regime as appropriate.

The financial model provides the high level framework for the financial arrangements and the allocation of resources between the partner institutions. This model is based entirely upon the Carleton-Algonquin BIT program, but expanded into a generic framework that can be applied to the development of new ILP programs between a university and a college. The financial model is specific to Ontario given that it is based upon the BIU funding formula, which is unique to Ontario within Canada.

2. *Detailed Financial Statement of the Project*: The Final Budget Report provides a full statement of the use of resources during the project, including the use of in-kind and ONCAT funded components of the project.

#### ILP Program Development Status

In addition to the generic template being provided to ONCAT, this project also involved the development of three new ILP programs as described above. The development of these programs is not part of the deliverables to ONCAT, but they do constitute important outcomes of the ILP project. The three programs are in various stages of development and approval, as follows:

*Carleton-Algonquin BIT Program in Information Resource Management (IRM)*: This program has been fully developed and has been approved by the Senate of Carleton University and approved by Algonquin College as meeting the requirements of the Diploma in Library and Information Technician diploma program. The program has now

been submitted to the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance for approval and will be submitted to the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities for funding approval in April 2015. Pending external approvals, the first intake of students in this program is anticipated for September 2016.

*Carleton-George Brown Bachelor of Financial Services:* The bulk of the curriculum for this program has been developed, and the results of the employment demand market survey will be available later in April. Once the market demand has been determined, the financial model for the program will be finalized and the program will move through Carleton University's program approval and quality assurance processes. The program will allow graduates from George Brown's Advanced Diploma in Finance to bridge into the ILP program as well as new students to commence the program as a four-year ILP degree/diploma program. It is anticipated that if the program approval process goes smoothly it would be possible to launch the program in September 2017.

*OCAD U-George Brown Degree in Material Art & Design with a Specialization in Fashion:* The initial discussions between George Brown College and OCAD U were based upon enhancing the existing articulation agreements between OCAD U Material Art and Design and GBC School of Design, such that: (a) there is better communication of articulation requirements for GBC students at the beginning of their programs; (b) GBC students have opportunities to take courses at OCAD U prior to articulating; and/or (c) OCAD U Liberal Arts and Science requirements can be counted as electives or program requirements in the GBC diploma programs. Using the template developed under this ILP project, the two institutions are exploring the development of a Fashion specialization in the OCAD U Material Art & Design program using a combination of OCAD U and GBC courses. This program is still in the early stages of development and it is not possible at this time to determine the likely time of development or potential launch. Also, OCAD U and GBC are working collaboratively to explore the possibility of one or more joint degree programs, possibly in Accessory Design, and to develop a model or models for future implementation.

### Future Developments

The outcomes of this project provide the generic template to promote and expand the development of ILP degrees in Ontario. By developing the integrated curriculum that delivers on the learning outcomes and academic requirements of both a degree and a diploma in four years, ILP programs present an opportunity to offer Ontario students alternative ways to undertake their post-secondary education that maximize the strengths of both a university and college education. The generic template provides the pathway for universities and colleges in Ontario to collaborate in the development of what has been a proven success story for Carleton University and Algonquin College.

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