

1. Executive Summary

The McMaster-Mohawk Graduate School Pathways Project (GSPP) sought to create a clear and unambiguous pathway, for working technologists, as well as high school and recent college graduates, to the B.Tech. program, and onwards to graduate level studies in Engineering.

The project focused on the following:

- Gauging student demand and desire for graduate studies pathways via the Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.) programs
- Based on this student demand, establishing:
 - o A) an advanced entry (2 courses or 6 units credit) pathway to graduate studies (completed) within the W Booth School of Engineering Practice and Technology at McMaster University;
 - o B) a specialized new M.Eng. degree in the W Booth School, designed to be aligned to B.Tech. program specializations, with options to complete the full degree as well as a shorter post-graduate diploma (in progress);
 - o C) the creation of new partnerships and pathways through the Combined Degree/Diploma program through bilateral articulation agreements, where students would then be eligible for option A) above – in this case, with Lambton College (completed).

The graduate studies advanced entry option (A, above) will be added to more than 125 existing pathways into the McMaster-Mohawk B.Tech. Degree Completion Program effective immediately. It will also be included in the new Lambton College → B.Tech. program pathway once entered into the ONTransfer database.

The research and analysis conducted in conjunction with these pathway development projects made it abundantly clear that students – even at the college level – have graduate studies (M.Eng., MBA, Ph.D., etc.) on their radar. They would like to have information on graduate level pathways made available to them early, with close to half stating that it would have been useful information for planning purposes prior to university level studies. As one survey respondent aptly put it:

“The thought of a reputable university such as McMaster acknowledging my college studies and giving me the opportunity to receive a bachelor's degree without starting from the bottom of the ladder (so to speak) is too good to pass up. And now with the inclusion of an internal graduate studies option, the potential to build my academic level in an efficient and timely manner is immense. I believe this will have the most impact if advertised together with the B.Tech degree completion program. In my eyes it is the best option for a college student who wishes to continue their education while being acknowledged for obtaining a diploma.”

We believe this pathway will be of significant value to students moving through the Post Secondary Education system as we continue to seek new opportunities to advance the careers of B.Tech. students.