

Policy Title	Degree Breadth Policy
Policy Holder	Vice President Academic
Policy Approver(s)	Senior Team
Related Policies	General Education Policy
Related Procedures	
Appendices	
Storage Location	https://www.confederationcollege.ca/department/policies/academic
Effective Date	2025-Mar-27
Next Review Date	2030-Mar-27

Purpose

To comply with the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB) Manual for Ontario Colleges, which requires a balance of core and breadth courses in degree programs.

Scope

This policy applies to bachelor's degree programs only.

Definitions

Academic

Administrator: Dean, Associate Dean, Academic Manager

Breadth: Courses that allow students to explore topics and issues beyond their program's core or professional options.

General Education: General Education

PLAR: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

Program of Study: A group of courses leading to a certificate, diploma or degree

Governing Laws and Regulations

Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board Manual for Ontario Colleges (2018) - [Link](#)

Policy Statements

1. Degree Breadth Courses

- 1.1. Degree breadth courses contribute to knowledge in fields outside the main field of study.
- 1.2. Breadth courses provide knowledge in at least two of the following areas outside the core field of study:
 - 1.2.1. Humanities
 - 1.2.2. Sciences
 - 1.2.3. Social Sciences
 - 1.2.4. Global Cultures, including Indigenous cultures
 - 1.2.5. Mathematics
- 1.3. In degree programs, the balance of core and breadth courses is normally achieved as follows:
 - 1.3.1. A minimum of 20% of program hours are in breadth courses.
 - 1.3.2. At least one breadth course is an elective, freely chosen by the student.
- 1.4. Breadth courses are developed and delivered according to the PEQAB Manual for Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology. The College's Guiding Principles for Breadth Curriculum are contained within its Degree Breadth Framework and subject to periodic review by PEQAB.
- 1.5. The GE Coordinator will review new breadth courses to ensure compliance with provincial guidelines. As part of degree consent renewal or upon request, the GE Coordinator will review programs of study to ensure they meet breadth requirements.
- 1.6. Students will choose breadth electives from a pool approved by the GE Coordinator.
- 1.7. Breadth courses will be reviewed periodically, as set by PEQAB.
- 1.8. Students may apply for a transfer of credit if the eligible course was completed more than five years prior to their current program of study.
- 1.9. For required courses, transfer credit will be granted based on the successful prior completion of a course covering the same theme and meeting similar course learning requirements. The GE Coordinator will assess applications for transfer of credit.

- 1.10. Students wishing to use PLAR to challenge degree breadth courses based on prior learning may challenge the theme areas and leveling criteria. The GE Coordinator and subject resource specialist will assess applications for credit and, if recognized, assign it to the appropriate level and enter it on the student's transcript.

Non-Compliance

The Associate Dean for the School of Business, Hospitality, and Media Arts is responsible for ensuring the appropriate selection and approval of General Education courses, and for maintaining and updating this policy as required. Associate Deans in other academic areas are responsible for ensuring that each Program of Study complies with the General Education requirements stated in this policy. The Vice President Academic is responsible for monitoring compliance and updating the policy as required.

Revision History

Version	Change	Author	Date of Change
New	Policy created	APAC	March 2025