

Policy Title	New Program Development Policy
Policy Holder	Vice-President Academic
Policy Approver(s)	Senior Team
Related Policies	Ch5-s6-02 Academic Program Review, Suspension and Cancellation Policy Ch5-s1-18 General Education Policy
Related Procedures	Ch5-s6-08b New Program Development Procedure Ch5-s6-02b Academic Program Review, Suspension and Cancellation Procedure
Appendices	
Storage Location	Website - https://www.confederationcollege.ca/policies-and-procedures
Effective Date	2025-Dec-17
Next Review Date	2030-Dec-17

Purpose

To ensure that the development of new academic programs aligns with Confederation College’s strategic priorities and complies with applicable ministry, regulatory, and quality assurance requirements. This policy enables the development of programs that respond to current and emerging needs of students, industry, employers, and the broader community, while ensuring academic integrity and long-term operational and financial sustainability.

Scope

This policy applies to all new programs of instruction, including those requiring approval or validation through the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES), the Credential Validation Service (CVS), the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB), and local college credential processes.

Definitions

Local College Credential: A certificate that is approved by Confederation’s Board of Governors or Senior Team for delivery at Confederation.

Program of Instruction: A group of related courses leading to a diploma, certificate or other credential awarded by the Board of Governors.

Indigenous Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Seven statements containing Indigenous content that faculty have been supported to embed within their program curriculum.

MCURES (Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security):

Provides funding approval for postsecondary programs of instruction. MCURES reviews program proposals to determine appropriate program classification codes, funding weights and parameters, and program titling, in accordance with provincial policy and funding frameworks.

CVS (Credential Validation Service):

Validates programs of instruction for Ontario colleges to ensure alignment with the Ministry's *Binding Policy Directive: Framework for Programs of Instruction*. CVS validation is required prior to seeking MCURES funding approval.

PEQAB (Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board):

An arm's-length advisory body established under the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*. PEQAB reviews applications for ministerial consent for new and existing degree programs, assessing program quality and the institution's capacity to deliver degree-level education.

Policy Statements

1. New programs are developed in response to an identified labour market demand, emerging technologies, and/or changing industry or societal needs.
2. All new programs of instruction shall:
 - a. Align with the College's:
 - i. Strategic Plan;
 - ii. Strategic Mandate Agreement;
 - iii. Program Development Framework; and/or
 - iv. Strategic Enrolment Management Framework.
 - b. Adhere to all applicable requirements of MCURES policy directives and/or PEQAB degree program quality review standards, structure and benchmarks.
 - c. Be in accordance, where appropriate, with relevant accreditation and/or industry standards/certifications.
 - d. Be supported by an evidence-based and data-informed decision process.
 - e. Be supported by industry and/or a relevant Program Advisory Committee, either permanent or ad hoc prior to submission for approval.
 - f. Commit to the implementation of the Indigenous Learning Outcomes.
 - g. Be consultative and collaborative, inclusive of all relevant internal and external parties.
 - h. Reflect best practices in adult education and training
 - i. Demonstrate fiscal sustainability based on enrolment projections.
3. The Board of Governors approves new programs of instruction as per the Minister's Binding Policy Directive, Framework for Programs of Instruction.

4. The approval of local college credentials will follow a modified process outlined in the New Program and Approval Operating Procedure.
5. New programs of instruction will only be implemented after receipt of all internal and external approvals.

Non-Compliance

It is the responsibility of the VPA to ensure that this policy is followed to avoid potential waste of time and resources.

Revision History

Version	Change	Author	Date of Change
new	<p>Overall Impact</p> <p>The revised Policy and Procedure provide a more structured, transparent, and accountable framework for new program development. The updates support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger governance and decision-making • Improved alignment with ministry and QA requirements • Greater financial and enrolment sustainability • More efficient and consistent program development processes 	Shane Strickland	Feb. 5, 2026