

Proposal to establish a non-degree credential taxonomy at UOIT

Many Canadian universities offer a variety of non-degree programs, including certificates, diplomas and graduate diplomas. These may be stand-alone offerings or subsets of degree programs. They may require a prior post-secondary credential or be more widely available to applicants. Course offerings may be at the undergraduate, graduate or non-degree level. In its short history, UOIT's offerings in this sphere are limited to those of the Management Development Centre. However, with the expansion of graduate offerings and efforts to appeal to additional audiences, the university is certain to introduce more of these credentials in the near future.

A number of factors need to be considered in building non-degree programs. These include, at a minimum,

1. academic requirements
2. admission and progression requirements
3. record keeping
4. transcripts and parchments
5. transferability of courses
6. funding eligibility/implications
7. approvals processes.

It is recommended that Academic Council establish a Committee on Non-Degree Credentials to develop a credential taxonomy. It would be particularly advantageous to have these guidelines in place before any large expansion of non-degree offerings. Therefore, a report back to Academic Council is recommended as soon as is feasible. The mandate of the committee would be to examine the above areas and any other relevant considerations, and produce a taxonomy to guide the design, implementation and management of such programs.

The following representation is suggested:

Associate Provost, Teaching and Learning (chair)
Registrar
Dean, Graduate Studies
An additional dean or associate dean
A faculty member
A student advisor or budget officer
A student representative

The committee should also be assigned a staff resource for research support and minute-taking.

Registrar's Office, June 13, 2008