

**CANADORE COLLEGE**  
**OPERATIONAL POLICY MANUAL**

**TITLE:** Liberal Studies Policy

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 16, 2023

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**1. SCOPE**

1.1 Authority

This policy is issued under the authority of the President.

1.2 Application

This policy applies to all degree programs offered by The Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology (hereafter referred to as “Canadore” or “the College”) that are quality assured by the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (hereafter referred to as PEQAB).

**2. PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES**

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all degree programs offered by the College meet the Liberal Studies (Non-Core) requirements as stipulated in Clause 3 (Program Content) – Section 6.2 (Standards and Benchmarks) of the PEQAB Manual for Ontario Colleges.

2.2 Principles

2.2.1 Liberal Studies (Non-Core) courses are designed to enhance the program curriculum by contributing to the achievement of critical thinking, quantitative and/or qualitative reasoning, written and oral communication skills, as well as knowledge of society and culture, and skills relevant to civic engagement.

2.2.2 Liberal Studies (Non-Core) courses shall provide exposure to increasingly complex theory at the degree level and reflect current knowledge in the relevant field and appropriate level of Ontario and Canada content, where applicable.

**3. DEFINITIONS**

3.1 Breadth Requirements

The part of the program that enables students to explore a range of topics and issues separate from their program/Professional Option courses.

### 3.2 Liberal Studies (Non-Core) Course

A degree-level course designed to enhance essential skills, including critical thinking, quantitative and/or qualitative reasoning, written and oral communication skills, as well as knowledge of society and culture, and skills relevant to civic engagement. It will expand and deepen knowledge and understanding of areas in humanities, sciences, social sciences, global cultures (including Indigenous cultures), and mathematics.

### 3.3 Liberal Studies Elective Course

A Liberal Studies course that is chosen by a student enrolled in a degree program and is available to students from a variety of programs.

### 3.4 Liberal Studies Mandated Course

A Liberal Studies course that all students in a degree program must complete.

### 3.5 Professional Option Course

An elective course of interest that is directly linked to a student's program and does not satisfy the Liberal Studies requirements of a degree program.

### 3.6 Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB)

The Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board is an Ontario agency that makes recommendations to the Minister of Colleges and Universities of Ontario on applications for ministerial consent under the terms of the Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000. (<http://www.peqab.ca/About.html>)

## 4. **POLICY**

4.1 Liberal Studies courses are breadth courses and complement professional courses in degree programs.

4.2 At least one (1) Liberal Studies course in a degree program is an elective freely chosen by the student.

4.3 Every Liberal Studies course at Canadore falls into one of the following five (5) categories: humanities, sciences, social sciences, global cultures (including Indigenous cultures), and mathematics. Liberal Studies courses are rigorous, incorporating knowledge and critical analyses of the theoretical frameworks in areas outside of the student's core areas of study, with a strong emphasis on critical thinking, research, and oral and written communication skills.

- 4.4 Students in degree programs must meet the following Liberal Studies requirements:
- Successful completion of Liberal Studies courses in at least two (2) of the five (5) categories;
  - If two (2) Liberal Studies courses are chosen from the same category, only one (1) should be at the introductory level of the topic; and
  - The number of Breadth courses required by the specific degree according to PEQAB Program Content Standard.
- 4.5 Degree programs may have exclusions for some degree Breadth courses when these courses are closely related to the main area of study of the particular degree and would therefore be considered "core" courses.

## **5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **5.1 President**

The President is responsible for the overall management and operation of the College. The President will ensure that the policy is implemented and that compliance is monitored.

### **5.2 Vice President, Academic**

The Vice President, Academic is responsible for the effective implementation of this policy and to resolve any disputes arising over policy interpretation.

## **6. EVALUATION**

This policy will be evaluated every five years or earlier if required.

## **7. RELATED MATERIALS**

Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board Manual for Ontario Colleges