

CANADORE COLLEGE
OPERATIONAL POLICY MANUAL

TITLE: Liberal Studies Policy

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 7, 2020

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 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 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 Canadian 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 qualitative reasoning, and communication. 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 students enrolled in degree programs 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 Lower-level Liberal Studies Course

A Liberal Studies course that introduces students in degree programs to key concepts and theories, establishing foundational survey knowledge and analysis.

3.6 Upper-level Liberal Studies Course

A Liberal Studies course that requires the application of foundational knowledge to evaluate critically the complexities of specific discipline areas and theoretical frameworks to a greater degree.

3.7 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.

3.8 Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB)

"The Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board is a 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. Liberal Studies offerings contribute to students' knowledge of society and culture, enhance skills relevant to civic engagement, and strengthen critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, and written and oral communication skills.

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 is classified as either lower- or upper-level and falls into one of the following five (5) categories: *humanities, sciences, social sciences, global cultures (including Indigenous cultures), and mathematics*. Both lower- and upper-level 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.
 - Successful completion of at least two (2) upper-level Liberal Studies courses. (Successful completion of at least one (1) lower-level, or English or Critical Thinking course is required before enrolling in an upper-level Liberal Studies course.)
 - 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."

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