

TYPE:	Academic
TITLE:	Degree Breadth
NO.:	ACAD-133
RESPONSIBILITY:	Executive Vice-President, Academic
APPROVED BY:	Durham College Leadership Team
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1. Introduction

Breadth, or non-core, courses in degree programs contribute to student knowledge outside their main vocational field(s) of study and are a requirement in meeting the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board's (PEQAB) degree level standard. Emphasizing a well-rounded education for students, breadth courses develop critical thinking and quantitative reasoning skills, enhance written and verbal communication skills and expand knowledge to support civic engagement.

2. Purpose

This policy and procedure outlines Durham College's (DC) alignment with PEQAB's breadth requirements for three-year baccalaureate and four-year honours baccalaureate degrees.

3. Definitions

Refer to [Durham College's Standard Definitions](#).

4. Policy statements

- 4.1. DC will comply with PEQAB's breadth requirements in the development, delivery and review of its three-year degrees and four-year honours degrees.
- 4.2. Degree breadth courses will contribute to achieving:
 - Critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, written and oral communication skills;
 - Knowledge of society and culture, and skills relevant to civic engagement;
 - Knowledge of the humanities, sciences, social sciences, global cultures and/or mathematics; and
- 4.3. This policy does not apply to collaborative degree program partnerships with other post-secondary institutions.

- 4.4. For three-year degrees, a minimum of 15% of the program hours will be outside the core field of study. For four-year honours degrees, a minimum of 20% of the program hours will be outside the core field of study.
- 4.5. Degree breadth courses may be designated or elective.
- 4.6. Degree breadth courses will be eligible for credit transfer and Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition.

5. Procedure

5.1. Degree-Level Standard

5.1.1. DC's degree breadth courses will provide knowledge in one of the following categories:

- Culture, Arts, Humanities and Self;
- Science and Technology; and
- Society and Commerce.

5.1.2. In both three-year and four-year degrees, at least one degree breadth course must be an elective.

5.1.3. Course learning outcomes for every degree breadth course will be mapped to PEQAB's degree level standard. This mapping will be published in degree breadth course outlines.

5.2. Degree Breadth Course Levels

5.2.1. All degree breadth courses are designated as either lower-level or upper-level.

5.2.2. Lower-level degree breadth courses provide introductory and/or foundational knowledge. Upper-level degree breadth courses contribute to a deeper understanding and analysis of the non-core field.

5.2.3. Students are required to successfully pass courses in at least two of three breadth categories.

5.2.4. Students are required to successfully pass at least one lower-level degree breadth courses (in any category) to be eligible to enroll in upper-level degree breadth courses. Students must complete a minimum of two upper-level degree breadth courses.

5.3. Degree Council

5.3.1. Reporting to the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Studies, a sub-committee of the Degree Council will provide recommendations on the development, implementation, quality and ongoing delivery of

degree breadth courses, to ensure college offerings meet provincial guidelines.

- 5.3.3. The Faculty of Liberal Studies will ensure the availability of degree breadth course offerings across the three identified categories, and in both lower and upper levels.
- 5.3.4. Through the Executive Dean in the Faculty of Liberal Studies, the Committee will provide an annual report to the Academic Leadership Team (ALT).

6. Roles and responsibilities

- 6.1. It is the responsibility of the Executive Vice-President, Academic to ensure this policy and procedure is fully implemented.
- 6.2. It is the responsibility of the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Studies to: ensure the Degree Council sub-committee supports the development and review of degree breadth courses; approve recommended breadth course outlines for compliance with PEQAB requirements, and; provide an annual report to ALT.
- 6.3. It is the responsibility of the Degree Council sub-committee to provide recommendations on the development, implementation, quality and ongoing delivery of degree breadth courses, to ensure college offerings meet provincial guidelines.
- 6.4. It is the responsibility of Executive Deans, Associate Deans and program teams to ensure degrees are developed and reviewed with appropriate breadth courses included in their programs of study.
- 6.5. It is the responsibility of the Manager, Program and Curriculum Development to ensure all new programs being submitted for consent comply with PEQAB's degree breadth requirements.
- 6.6. It is the responsibility of the Manager, Academic Quality Assurance to ensure all degree programs submitted for consent renewal, as well as any subsequent minor or major program changes, comply with PEQAB's degree breadth requirements.

7. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act considerations

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards have been considered in the development of this policy and procedure and it adheres to the principles outlined in the College's commitment to accessibility as demonstrated by the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

8. Non-compliance implications

Failure to comply with this policy and procedure may result in DC's degree programs not meeting PEQAB standards, thereby jeopardizing the College's ability to offer baccalaureate degrees and damaging its reputation for academic excellence.

9. Related forms, legislation or external resources

- Ontario Qualifications Framework
- Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board Manual for Colleges: Three Year Degrees
- Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board Manual for Colleges: Four Year Degrees
- Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board Breadth Manual