

TYPE:	Academic
TITLE:	Program Learning Outcomes
NO.:	ACAD-120
RESPONSIBILITY:	Vice President, Academic and Students
APPROVED BY:	Durham College Leadership Team
EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 2025

1. Introduction

The quality and consistency of Durham College's (DC) post-secondary programs are dependent on clearly articulated program learning outcomes (PLOs). The College's PLOs are current, performance-based, relevant, appropriate for the credential, and aligned with a Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES) program standard or program description. To support awareness and transparency, it is essential to record PLOs, centrally store them, track their change history, and effectively communicate them to stakeholders within the college sector.

2. Purpose

This policy and procedure outline the framework for addressing PLO currency, revision, maintenance, retention and communication.

3. Definitions

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

4. Policy statements

- 4.1. All programs will be consistent with the College's purpose, the program's intended purpose, and the credentials framework as defined in the Minister's Binding Policy Directive: Framework for Programs of Instruction, or the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB) manuals related to Ontario college degrees.
- 4.2. All post-secondary programs have PLOs.
- 4.3. Programs aligned with an MCURES program standard are required to adopt all PLOs. DC may include additional PLOs to those required by MCURES. The College will ensure PLOs are relevant to the industry and are taught and evaluated throughout program courses.
- 4.4. Programs aligned with a program description have locally held PLOs that are consistent with the description provided by the Credential Validation Service (CVS).

- 4.5. PLOs are communicated to partners in the college sector using a variety of channels, which may include course outlines and program pages on the College website.
- 4.6. PLOs are revised through a prescribed process. This can occur in a range of ways, including as the result of a change in accreditation, provincial ministry standards review, annual and comprehensive program reviews or MCURES requirements.
- 4.7. PLOs, revisions and revision history are centrally stored in a College repository.

5. Procedure

- 5.1 Program teams examine PLOs during the annual program renewal (APR) process, contribute to provincial MCURES standards reviews and, where applicable, as part of accreditation processes. For programs undergoing a CPR, the review team examines the PLOs in consultation with the Manager, Academic Quality Assurance during the curriculum mapping process.
- 5.2 Any recommendations for revision to PLOs will be documented and submitted to the Executive Dean or Associate Dean for consideration and approval. Professional and Part-time Learning and other academic Faculties impacted by changes will be consulted in advance to avoid unexpected adverse impacts.
- 5.3 Revisions to PLOs for programs with a program standard must demonstrate alignment of the program of study to the PLOs. This information is used to support DC's attestation to MCURES, as submitted by the Manager, Academic Quality Assurance. Revisions will be implemented within designated timelines provided by MCURES.
- 5.4 Changes to programs of study are reviewed by the Program Proposal Review Committee (PPRC) and where endorsed, referred to the Vice President, Academic and Students for approval.
- 5.5 Approved revisions to PLOs for programs with a program description are documented and submitted as a courtesy to CVS by the Manager, Academic Quality Assurance.
- 5.6 Once approved, revised PLOs are communicated by the Manager, Academic Quality Assurance through the distribution of a program change memorandum.
- 5.7 Changes to any PLOs are documented, and this documentation becomes part of the historical record of the program.
- 5.8 Annually, PLOs are presented to the relevant Program Advisory Committee (PAC) for feedback on currency and relevancy of revisions as appropriate.

6. 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.

7. Non-compliance implications

Non-compliance puts the College at risk of violating the Ministry's policy directives, and can result in programs which are out-of-date, or lacking in consistency and/or quality.

8. Related forms, legislation or external resources

- Minister's Binding Policy Directive: Framework for Programs of Instruction
- Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security Program Standards
- Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board, Manuals related to college degree programs