

COLLEGE POLICY

POLICY TYPE:	Academic
POLICY TITLE:	General Education
POLICY NO.:	ACAD-103
RESPONSIBILITY:	Vice-President, Academic
APPROVED BY:	Durham College Leadership Team
EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 2017
REVISED:	
REVIEW DATE:	June 2020

1. Introduction

Durham College strives to ensure that students who graduate from approved post-secondary programs are immediately employable in their field of study, able to progress in employment through the ability to continuously learn and capable of contributing positively to the society in which they live and work.

General education provides an opportunity for Durham College students to learn more about themselves and the robust world they live in by better preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of their chosen career and for life in general.

2. Purpose

This policy will provide a mechanism for complying with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) Minister's Binding Policy Directive Framework for Programs of Instruction. This directive requires each program of study to provide students with vocational, essential employability and general education courses.

3. Definitions

3.1 Student

This policy applies to the following categories of Students at Durham College:

Post-Secondary - Full-Time

An individual who is actively registered in at least 70 percent of the total number of credit hours or 66.6 percent of the total number of courses in a Ministry approved program in a given semester (according to the student's program of studies). Full-time post-secondary students pay full tuition, ancillary fees, student association levies and program specific fees in advance of registration.

Post-Secondary - Part-Time

An individual who is actively registered in less than 70 percent of the total number of credit hours or 66.6 percent of the total number of courses in a Ministry approved program in a given semester (according to the student's program of studies). Part-time post-secondary students pay a reduced tuition fee, ancillary and program specific fees based at the point of registration. These fees are calculated based on the number of courses they are taking. Note that these students do not pay student association levies.

Continuing Education Student

An individual who is actively registered in individual credit and/or non-credit courses. Continuing education students pay tuition and administrative fees associated with specific courses and/or programs at the point of registration.

School-to-College-Work-Initiative (SCWI)

An individual who is actively registered in one or more post-secondary course as approved by their high school. Students in the SCWI program do not pay fees.

3.2 Elective general education courses

Elective general education courses are courses selected from an approved pool of courses over which students exercise choice. These courses must meet the general education standard for theoretical breadth and provide learning opportunities beyond the vocational field of study.

3.3 General education course standard

General education course standard refers to the criteria within the MAESD Minister's Binding Policy Directive Framework for Programs of Instruction. The criteria note that general education courses must provide a broad theoretical overview of a topic of personal and/or societal importance (categorized as aesthetic, cultural, historical, scientific or philosophical) with little or no applications training.

3.4 Post-secondary programs of instruction

Post-secondary programs of instruction are defined as a group of related courses, defined locally as a Program of Study, leading to the awarding of one of the following credentials: Ontario College Certificate, Ontario College Diploma, Ontario College Advanced Diploma, Ontario College Graduate Certificate or Baccalaureate Degree. Programs of Instruction are approved by the Durham College Board of Governors and conform to the levels of learning articulated in the Credentials Framework (Minister's Binding Policy Directive on Framework for Programs of Instruction).

3.5 General Education Themes

The following themes are used to provide direction to colleges in the development and identification of courses that are designed to fulfill the General Education requirement for programs of instructions:

- Arts in Society
- Civic Life
- Social and Cultural Understanding
- Personal Understanding
- Science and Technology

4. Policy Statements

- 4.1. For Ontario College Diploma and Advanced Diploma programs, students must complete a minimum of three (3) elective general education courses (at least 42 hours each) in order to graduate.
- 4.2. General education courses must not require a prerequisite.
- 4.3. Exceptions to the 42 hours in length requirement must be approved by the vice-president, Academic.
- 4.4. General education course credits may be transferrable among Durham College's programs of study.
- 4.5. A detailed description of the process for implementing this policy is contained in the General Education Procedure (ACAD-103.1).
- 4.6. General Education is intended to engage the student in learning that incorporates breadth of study beyond the vocational field of study.

5. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) considerations

AODA standards have been considered in the development of this policy and it adheres to the principles outlined in the AODA standards and the college's commitment to accessibility as demonstrated by the Accessibility Plan (ADMIN-203).

6. Roles and responsibilities

The vice-president, Academic is responsible for ensuring that the General Education Policy is fully implemented.

7. Non-compliance implications

Failure to comply with this policy puts the college in conflict with the Minister's directive and at risk of actions by the government. It also risks the college's reputation for high-quality education and students' ability to meet the necessary requirements to obtain their credential.

8. Communications plan

A message will be posted on ICE alerting faculty/staff when new or revised policies and procedures are added to ICE. A message will be posted on MyCampus alerting students when new or revised policies and procedures are added.

9. Related policies, procedures and directives

- Board of Governors' Policies: Section IV, Executive Limitations: Programs of Instruction
- Durham College Advanced Standing and Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Policy ACAD-109 and Procedure ACAD-109.1
- Durham College Curriculum Development Policy ACAD-102 and Procedure ACAD-102.1
- Durham College General Education Procedure ACAD-103.1
- Durham College New Program Development Policy ACAD-104 and Procedure ACAD-104.1
- Durham College Program Review and Renewal Policy ACAD-105 and Procedure ACAD-105.1
- MAESD Minister's Binding Policy Directive: Framework for Programs of Instruction
- MAESD Program Standards
- Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board: Handbook for Ontario Colleges
- Ontario Qualifications Framework
- General Education Committee Terms of Reference