

ONCAT TRANSFER PATHWAY FINAL REPORT

Project name:	Developing Pathways from Seneca College Social Service Worker Diploma Programs to Public Administration Degree Program at York University
Member:	York University
Project number:	2014-14
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Executive Summary

This project establishes transfer pathways between various streams within Social Service programs (SSW, SSW-Immigrant and Refugee and SSW-Gerontology) at Seneca College and the Bachelor of Public Administration degree program at York University's Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies at York University. While historically, students from Seneca or other SSW college diploma programs from other publicly funded colleges could transfer to the BPA degree at York University under the University's block credit policy, no specific transfer pathway/articulation agreement existed. Furthermore, SSW diploma students seeking university degrees had traditionally focused on transfer to Bachelor of Social Work programs where demand is quite high. The BPA was selected based on the assumption of potential program affinity with SSW diploma programs and graduate interest in careers in public policy administration.

Although the project took longer to complete than anticipated, the project was able to achieve more than its original intention. The project met its aim of creating college diploma to university degree transfer pathways from Seneca's SSW diploma programs to York's Bachelor of Public Administration degrees (Honours 120 credits and Specialized Honours 120 credits). The project was also able to expand its scope and developed *four additional college to university transfer pathways* to the following undergraduate degree programs within York's Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies: Multicultural and Indigenous Studies (Honours 120 credits), Multicultural & Indigenous Studies (90 credits), Human Rights & Equity Studies (Honours 120 credits) and Human Rights & Equity Studies (90 credits). The project also explored and created *additional university degree to college diploma transfer pathways* from York's same degree programs to Seneca's SSW diploma programs.

Project Details

The project involved completion of the following:

1. Curriculum and learning outcomes mapping of each program;
2. Identification of program and accreditation requirements;
3. Credit transfer assessment for diploma students with the aim to recognize as many college credits as possible;
4. Assessment of the necessity for a summer bridging program;
5. Identification of course delivery (location, delivery mode, offering institution, etc.);

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6. Revision and/or adaptation of academic programming to address implementation issues;
7. Coordination of promotional aspects between the institutions; and
8. Approval of new pathway(s) by both institutions

The project did not require the development of bridging courses or examination of accreditation requirements. Based upon curriculum and learning outcomes mapping, the transfer pathway grants 45 credits towards the BPA or BA degrees at York University, does not limit the number of Seneca students eligible to transfer as long as students meet the admission requirements of having achieved a minimum GPA of B (3.0/70%) and, for the BPA degree, completion of one high school 4U math or equivalent. Transfer pathway/articulation agreements were approved and signed by the Vice President Academic (Seneca) and Vice President Academic & Provost (York) in July 2015. The transfer pathways will be included in future institutional print and web-based promotional materials and have been included at upcoming transfer recruitment events.

Key lessons learned or best practices include the following:

- Importance of engaging faculty, staff and administration for various aspects of the project such as overall project management and building faculty support at the program level.
- Value of maintaining a degree of project flexibility to expand or reshape scope of project to allow for opportunities that may emerge (e.g. development of university to college pathways, including additional degree programs) while balancing overall project management and deliverables.