

## **General Arts and Science Credential Completion Project:**

Mohawk College  
Fanshawe College

### **Executive Summary:**

In partnership, Mohawk College and Fanshawe College worked to create pathways within their respective General Arts and Science programs. General Arts and Science, unique in being largely options-based and offered through both part-time and full-time deliveries, was leveraged within the project to facilitate credit transfer opportunities and enhance flexibility for students, in particular for those going through an academic transition.

The main goals of the project were to map post-secondary credits from institutions within the colleges' catchment area on both a course-to-course and course-to-program outcome basis. Data resulting from the process was to be compiled by establishing a database. The project was to culminate in sending course credit transfer decisions to ONCAT.

In total, 3,435 course transfers were approved from 35 institutions with a particular focus on McMaster University, University of Guelph, Sheridan College, Seneca College and Niagara College. Of the courses assessed by Mohawk, 173 were approved for course-to-course transfer and 3,263 were approved as course-to-program outcome(s) transfer. Areas of focus included Business, Humanities, and Liberal Arts as they proved to have the highest transfer rates with respect to General Arts and Science. Both the certificate and diploma offerings of the program were considered.

At Mohawk College the pathway(s) created throughout the project render students eligible for course to program transfer for all seven first year options-based courses. Eligible students may be exempt from the remaining mandatory courses, however transfer credits must align with the residency policy.

Fanshawe College agreed to allow nine credits (roughly three courses) from any program for transfer into their General Arts and Science program, raising the likelihood that a student would only need one additional semester of study to complete a one-year certificate. The process was formalized and degree audits were updated so that the nine standard (non-elective) credits would automatically populate the student evaluations (EVAL) allowing them to see immediately which credits they had already completed toward a one-year General Arts and Science certificate. As more of General Arts and Science has moved to an online delivery, Fanshawe is now able to offer program completion to online-only students as well.

The first of its kind within General Arts and Science as well as Continuing Education, the project at hand shed light on new approaches to credit transfer within the program as well as within the full-time and part-time academic areas. Mohawk College, as the lead of the project, created a cross-disciplinary Steering Committee and Working Group that leveraged the different strengths, knowledge, and background of its members, amplifying the ability to overcome challenges.

In addition, it was important to recognize the differences between programs, policies, and procedures at the two participating institutions. Mohawk and Fanshawe worked towards the common project goal while tailoring processes to individual institutional policies. The two

schools leveraged their excellence in academic programming and student-centred approach to create novel opportunities for credential completion.

Overall, having a strong, dedicated and collaborative team ensured that project deliverables were met effectively and on time. In the end, project goals were met and the team continues to communicate and market the credential completion opportunity for implementation in Fall, 2017.

Without the project funding, this initiative would likely not have carried forward. Mohawk and Fanshawe would like to take the opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the support and contribution from ONCAT.