



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Developing Pathways from Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Assistant to Bachelor of Physical and Health Education and Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology

Type: Pathway Development

Project Number: 2020-28 or P2028

Project Lead: Université Laurentienne

Collaborators: Collège Boréal, La Cité Collégiale

Project Summary

The project proposes six (6) pathways from the college Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist Assistant program (offered by La Cité and Collège Boréal), to the Laurentian programs

- 1) Health Promotion (Boréal and La Cité)
- 2) Sport and Physical Education (Boréal and La Cité)
- 3) Kinesiology (Boréal and La Cité)

Project Rationale

Exploring these pathways was motivated essentially by the strong recommendation of college stakeholders from these programs, who told use that in recent years they have noted that nearly 40% of their graduates then pursued university studies. Apparently, this trend is explained by the considerable gap between the average salary associated with a college education (ranging from \$30,000 to \$48,000 per year, to the salary associated with a university education in the industry (ranging instead from \$70,000 to \$80,000 per year). Moreover, it was also shown that a Bachelor degree is required to access many administrative positions in a hospital setting; a setting highly coveted by students in this program.

Outcomes

The desired pathways were intended for graduates from the following programs: La Cité and Collège Boréal's Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Assistant program, to Laurentian's

Kinesiology, Health and Physical Education, and Health Promotion programs. Hence, six (6) pathways in all were initially desired.

Key Steps

- The course outlines comprising all of the college and university programs involved in this project were gathered = winning practice
- Review matrices to compare the learning outcomes of the university courses with the learning outcomes of the college courses were developed = winning practice
- A preliminary review was done by a general instructional content specialist to identify the most obvious correlations and submit a report to the university academic units for their approval of the findings = winning practice

Pathways Created

The development of pathways between Collège Boréal and La Cité's Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Assistant program (2 years) to the following programs:

- B.Sc. Kinesiology
- B.P.H.E. Sport and Physical Education
- B.P.H.E. Health Promotion

Incomplete Pathways

This information can only be provided after the restructuring underway at Laurentian University is complete because some of the programs involved in this project's pathways may be cut in the institution's new structure.

Challenges

On February 1, 2021, Laurentian University initiated, with no notice, restructuring procedures under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA). This process caused general destabilization at the institution, which had to put a stop to all approval processes related to pathways being developed. The work can only resume in Fall 2021, based on the programs that will have been spared from the cuts.

Student Outcomes

These pathways will help college graduates who want to enroll in targeted university programs save time and money. They will also offer them greater recognition as professionals through greater consideration of the value of the specialized academic skills gained throughout their college education, thereby demonstrating increased consideration and therefore the greater value of the college education.

Student Credential

These pathways could give college students faster access to obtaining the following degrees:

- B.Sc Kinesiology
- B.P.H.E. Sport and Physical Education
- B.P.H.E. Health Promotion

Student Time Savings

This information is yet to be determined following the upcoming approval processes.

Student Financial Savings

This information is yet to be determined following the upcoming approval processes, which will indicate the number of credits granted and allow us to perform this calculation.

Student Flexibility

Definitely better access to the programs and an improved credit recognition process.

Student Work Alignment

Yes, because they will help college graduates enhance their initial studies with related studies, opening the door for them to more opportunities on the job market.

Institutional Outcomes

No, none. The process undertaken as part of this project followed the procedures of the new methodology developed and followed for the last three years.

Tips/Advice

We still believe that the methodology based on reviewing correlations between the learning outcomes of the college and university programs continues to be the best argument to present to the institutional bodies responsible for the approval of the proposed pathways because it shows, in a factual manner, the overlaps and skills of the college graduates. We strongly recommend it to other post-secondary institutions.

Tools and Resources

The key tool developed as part of this project is the review matrix.