



CONESTOGA

Connect Life and Learning

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Final Status Report
ONCAT Project 2015-14
Pathways from Policing and Security Diplomas to
Conestoga's Bachelor of Community and Criminal Justice
Program
March 24, 2016

Executive Summary:

Conestoga College ITAL (Conestoga) has worked to establish educational pathways for students holding a two year diploma from Police Foundations (PF) or Protection, Security and Investigation (PSI) programs into the Bachelor of Community and Criminal Justice (BCCJ) program.

As part of its cyclical renewal process, the BCCJ program recently updated its program design to strengthen both its capacity to prepare graduates for the changing landscape of community and criminal justice, and to improve opportunities for graduates of PF and PSI programs to enter the degree program at a more advanced level. The latter was intended to better align diploma-to-degree pathways with student expectations of a 'two-plus-two' post-secondary education opportunity.

The focus of the present project was to consider and identify how pathways to the updated BCCJ design could be strengthened to benefit the widest range of students across the province, while recognizing that the provincial program standards for the PF (MTCU funding code 53008, August, 2012) and the PSI (MTCU funding code 53007, January, 2010) programs may not emphasize community/ social justice aspects of policing and security to the extent that Conestoga has incorporated them as important elements of the renewed BCCJ program design. While both of these broad areas continue to emphasize sector specific knowledge and instrumental skills in their in-house training programs, recruitment goals are evolving towards an emphasis on more integrated perspectives and 'softer' skill sets deemed essential to effective practice within increasingly diverse and collaborative environments beset by complex issues that challenge unitary perspectives.

The current project resulted in several useful results:

- a) A clearer articulation of the criteria and corresponding rationale for advanced standing entry into the updated BCCJ program from PF and PSI diploma programs;
- b) Better defined bridging courses to enable this pathway; and
- c) A better sense of which PF and PSI diploma programs are best positioned for advanced standing entry to the BCCJ program through the specified bridge.

As anticipated, only a segment of current PF and PSI diploma programs would lend themselves to enhanced advanced standing entry into Year 3 of the updated BCCJ program. Based on our analysis, the majority of these programs either:

- a) lack published information to enable a detailed fit/gap assessment, and/or
- b) continue to emphasize a more traditional, specialized and instrumental approach to education that

does not overtly incorporate theory or applied strategies of community wellbeing, and the correspondingly blended and collaborating roles for public and private safety practitioners, as emphasized in the BCCJ.

However, this project can support further pathway development from the remaining programs by identifying the features of policing and security focused diploma streams that appear best aligned, not only with existing provincial program standards, but with the community justice and inter-professional elements Conestoga believes to be of emerging value as sector needs evolve and become refined across Ontario.