



UNIVERSITÉ
SAINT-PAUL
UNIVERSITY

**PROJECT NUMBER 2017-22 - ACCELERATED CURRICULUM FOR TRANSFER
OPPORTUNITIES PATHWAYS (ACTOP)**

March 15, 2018

Final Report to ONCAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective of this project is to develop bilingual accelerated pathways between specific technical communication-related programs at both Algonquin and La Cité, and Saint Paul University's Social Communication Honour's B.A. program via innovative new forms of intensive curriculum delivery, thereby enabling transfer students in these programs to complete their Degree more rapidly in the official language of their choice.

In today's employment market, many managerial positions require a minimum of a Bachelor's degree. Those in possession of technical diplomas and who later desire career progression have to make a difficult decision: return to education or accept the limitations. The opportunity to combine a bachelor's degree (theory) with a college diploma (technical) potentially eliminates that choice, and better prepares individuals for stronger career trajectories in their chosen field.

The newly developed pathways permit students to potentially complete their certificate studies at either college in two years and then complete 60 university credits within a further calendar year, in either official language thus obtaining a B.A. (Honours) in Social Communication at Saint Paul University.

Saint Paul University faculty and staff worked rigorously to assess the college programs and courses and map appropriate learning-outcome equivalencies. As a result of these efforts, an equivalency map was developed for each of the communication related programs in both colleges, which can be used for future pathway projects.

Each college student from the mapped programs is eligible to apply for admission to the four-year Saint Paul University honours degree and, if accepted, to aim for completion of SPU studies within 12 consecutive months. The year-long project resulted in the creation of 14 new articulation pathways which will offer students from both colleges even more options to pursue graduate studies in Ontario. The college programs covered by the pathway agreements are:

Algonquin	La Cité
Photography	Photographie
Graphic Design	Design Graphique (LC) (3-years)
Broadcasting – Television	Production Télévisuelle
Broadcasting – Radio	Radio
Journalism	Journalisme
Public Relations	Relations publiques
Advertising & Marketing Communications	Publicité et communication marketing

This new agreement will allow new accelerated pathways of existing agreements in other disciplines to be implemented more easily in the future.

Although many meetings were held between participating institutions at all levels, and despite our best efforts to develop viable pathway options, we were not successful at implementing the accelerated program as planned in time to recruit students for the 2018 academic year. The prime reason was unforeseen delays prompted by the five-week Ontario College strike which caused issues with our partner's deliverables. For example, we were not able to obtain the necessary level of cross-institution dialogue required to ensure that our assumptions regarding core content and learning outcomes were accurate and appropriate. We were unable to survey as many students as planned. Therefore advertising and marketing of the program was non-existent. However, the spirit of the program is completed and we were able to develop the suggested pathways.

Over the summer months, we will finalize the implementation process to implement these pathways immediately; we are confident we will be ready to launch the programs in the fall of 2018.