



NIAGARA COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Board Governance Policy Manual

Approved: 04-01-22
Revised: 08-04-24
Motion: BG-25-2008

POLICY TYPE: I. ENDS

POLICY TITLE: C. Program Quality for Programs of Instruction

BACKGROUND:

Niagara College is committed to assuring that its Programs of Instruction meet and exceed standards and expectations for quality and relevance.

The Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities Binding Policy Directive states as follows:

“Colleges are to establish mechanisms for the review of their Programs of Instruction to ensure ongoing quality, relevancy and currency. A college’s policy on quality assurance for Programs of Instruction is to be publicly available.”

“Colleges may elect to seek program accreditation from external accrediting bodies.”

THE POLICY:

Educational quality at Niagara College is primarily assured through program reports and program reviews. These involve the organized collection, dissemination and interpretation of information and opinion to assist the Board, the administration, program advisory committees and the faculty in making valid judgments about the effectiveness, quality and direction of the College’s programs.

Program quality will be monitored on an annual and ongoing basis through Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s), Program Advisory Committees, Curriculum Committees, enrolment and retention rates and other indicators.

Each college, under the leadership of the President and the governance of the Board, has the overall responsibility for the quality assurance of the programs it delivers. The Program Quality Assurance Process Audit (PQAPA) involves the regular and cyclical review of each college’s program quality assurance processes. Its purpose is developmental and its intent is to ensure continuous improvement. The Ontario College Quality Assurance Service, an arms-length, independent body ensures that audits at the institutional level are conducted every five years, according to the Minister’s Binding Policy Directive.

The College is committed to reviewing its programs regularly and effectively, and it is therefore the policy of the College that all programs leading to a credential will undergo a comprehensive review every six to seven years, according to a schedule approved by the Board.

MONITORING:

- Provide to the Board annually a summary report of program reviews completed during the year