A. Background and Definitions

Niagara College is committed to ensuring that its programs meet and exceed standards and expectations for quality and relevance.

Program Descriptions: Include a program purpose, program outcomes, and in some cases, an indication of admission requirements.

Programs of Instruction: A group of related courses leading to a degree, diploma, certificate, or other document awarded by the Board of Governors.

Program Standards: The published provincial standard for each postsecondary program includes the following components:
   a) Vocational Standard: the career-specific learning outcomes which apply to the program in question, including the elements of performance
   b) Essential Employability Skills Standard: general learning outcomes in areas such as written and verbal communications, math, computer literacy, teamwork and decision-making which apply to all programs of similar length, and
   c) General Education Standard: the requirement for a variety of general education courses to broaden the scope of career-oriented college programs and benefit students in terms of personal growth and enrichment, informed citizenship and working life.

B. Purpose

Niagara College is committed to ensuring that all its programming meets an identified economic or societal need and is consistent with the College’s Mission and Values, as well as the Minister’s Binding Policy Directive on Programs and is generally aligned with the College’s Strategic Mandate Agreement.

C. Policy Statements

1. All programs leading to a Niagara College credential must reflect the values of the College focusing on quality, student success, and hold appropriate value for the student and the community.
2. The development of new programs conforms to the requirements of College Procedure NC700-New Program Development.

3. New program development must meet the following six (6) criteria documented in the Ministry’s Request for Approval for Funding:

   a) The Credentials Validation Service (CVS) has confirmed that the proposed program of instruction conforms to the Credentials Framework and is consistent with accepted nomenclature, or the program of instruction has been granted or is seeking Ministerial consent
   b) There is either demonstrated labour market and student demand, or societal need and student demand for the program.
   c) A relevant program advisory committee is in place and has recommended the program
   d) The program content and delivery is and will be compliant with all requirements of regulatory bodies responsible for the field of study or other regulatory bodies related to the field of study.
   e) The program meets the relevant program standards where they exist and essential employability skills and general education requirements
   f) The College’s Board of Governors and President have approved the program of instruction

D. Related Documents

Policies:  NC700 Quality Assurance and Program Review
           NC800 Academic Credentials

Procedures:  NC700 New Program Development