



# PROJECT SNAPSHOT

## Pathway Development in the Arts and Sciences

**Type:** Pathways Development

**Project Number:** 2019-18 or P1918

**Project Lead:** Laurentian University

**Collaborators:** Le collège La Cité

### Project Summary

The project promotes the passage of students from college programs to university programs in the fields of arts and science. The following pathways are identified:

- 1) From La Cité's Pharmaceutical Techniques programs to Laurentian's Biochemistry, Biology and Pharmaceutical Chemistry programs
- 2) From La Cité's Journalism and Public Relations programs to Laurentian's new Law and Justice program

### Project Rationale

The Biochemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry programs at Laurentian have attracted about 15 students over 4 academic years (in 2015, 2016 and 2017). For those years, there are 5, 6 and 8 students respectively in first year and we note an average retention rate of 73% in second year. Given that we offer the option of a 3 or 4-year Bachelor degree, about 11% of students decide to go on for a 4<sup>th</sup> year. With this pathway, we hope to maintain a higher number of students, to provide a more attractive dynamic. Also, given that La Cité has about 20 graduates in Pharmaceutical Techniques annually, we estimate that 40% of them would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

A restructuring of the Political Science program at Laurentian led to the creation of a new program to further meet the interest of students: a B.A. in Law and Justice. Given that the initial program attracted few students (from 2014 to 2016, fewer than five students were enrolled in

first and second year, although the average retention rate was 90%), it was decided that the field of political science would be combined with law, thereby offering students multidisciplinary learning. During our discussions La Cité mentioned that it was seeking multidisciplinary knowledge for their Journalism and Public Relations students. For these two disciplines, the offer proposed by our new Law and Justice program was among the most relevant to the stated needs. On average, La Cité awards about 10 diplomas in Journalism and about 30 in Public Relations annually. Based on the numbers, we estimate that 25 students would be interested in continuing their studies through this pathway, according to the information gathered from La Cité students.

## **Main Collaborators**

La Cité was responsible for providing the documentation necessary to review the programs targeted for the pathways, attending the meetings and facilitating communication with their program coordinators for clarification on reviewing the correlations between the college and university courses. As the main project coordinator, Laurentian University was responsible for carrying out the work plan, conducting the review work, coordinating the exchange of communications and information with La Cité, providing good financial management and providing follow-up reports to ONCAT.

## **Outcomes**

Ultimately, the outcomes of this project aimed at developing five (5) college-university pathways, namely three (3) in the science field and two (2) in the arts field. Over the last year, we completed the first review of the targeted programs and identified the specialization courses that could be recognized for college graduates. Our recommendations are now pending assessment by the various institutional bodies.

## **Pathway(s) Development**

### **Key Steps**

Two key factors pushed us to explore the relevance of these pathways. In the case of the two pathways from La Cité's Journalism and Public Relations programs to Laurentian's Law and Justice program, it is mainly about seeing how, as post-secondary partners, we could come together to offer students in these Francophone college programs the added value that would make them competitive in the job market, which is particularly fierce in the communications industry. On the other hand, in the case of the three pathways from La Cité's Pharmaceutical Techniques program, it was a matter of promoting the opportunities for additional studies that would help increase job opportunities for graduates of this program, while having the opportunity to feed the new program in place at Laurentian that is strongly aligned with this college program, namely the Pharmaceutical Chemistry B.Sc.

## **Pathways Created**

The five (5) desired pathways are awaiting approval by Laurentian's institutional bodies:

- 1) From La Cité's Pharmaceutical Techniques program to Laurentian's Biochemistry, Biology and Pharmaceutical Chemistry programs
- 2) From La Cité's Journalism and Public Relations programs to Laurentian's new Law and Justice program

## Challenges

All of the steps associated with completing this project took place with no specific pitfalls.

## Student Outcomes

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

## Student Credentials

Laurentian's various decision-making bodies need to approve them first before they are officially recognized.

## Student Time Savings

Note that this information is based only the potential time saved by the student given that Laurentian's various decision-making bodies must grant their approval first before they are officially recognized.

- Pathway from the Journalism program to the Law and Justice B.A.: approximately 2 semesters.
- Pathway from the Public Relations program to the Law and Justice B.A.: approximately 2 semesters.
- Pathway from the Pharmaceutical Techniques program to the Biology B.Sc.: approximately 3 semesters.
- Pathway from the Pharmaceutical Techniques program to the Biochemistry B.Sc.: approximately 3 semesters.
- Pathway from the Pharmaceutical Techniques program to the Pharmaceutical Chemistry B.Sc.: approximately 2.5 semesters.

## Student Financial Savings

This information is based only the potential tuition fees saved by the student given that Laurentian's various decision-making bodies must grant their approval first before they are officially recognized. There are additional savings associated with ancillary expenses and relocation expenses to take the courses.

- Pathway from the Journalism program to the Law and Justice B.A.: approximately \$7,500
- Pathway from the Public Relations program to the Law and Justice B.A.: approximately \$7,500

- Pathway from the Pharmaceutical Techniques program to the Biology B.Sc.: approximately \$11,250
- Pathway from the Pharmaceutical Techniques program to the Biochemistry B.Sc.: approximately \$11,250
- Pathway from the Pharmaceutical Techniques program to the Pharmaceutical Chemistry B.Sc.: approximately \$9,375

## Student Flexibility

First, the potential credit recognition as part of these pathways appears to be quite beneficial. We will have to monitor if the various decision-making bodies will accept the recommended recognitions based on the review conducted as part of this project. Moreover, several courses associated with Laurentian's Law and Justice B.A. are accessible online, which gives the college graduate or the student potentially already on the job market the added benefit of flexibility to be able to pursue their university education without being forced to relocate.

## Student Work Alignment

Initially, La Cité contacted us to develop this pathway with a view to offering added value in terms of employability because several of them, from their Toronto campus, aspire toward jobs at Queen's Park and expressed an interest in upgrading their education with a political dimension. Hence, we can state that this pathway does indeed contribute to student employability.

## Institutional Outcomes

The process undertaken as part of this project followed the procedures of the new methodology developed and followed for the last two years.

## Tips/Advice

In our opinion, the methodology based on the review of correlations between the learning outcomes of the college and university programs is still the best argument to present to the institutional bodies responsible for approving the proposed pathways because it shows, in a factual manner, the overlap and the skills of college graduates. We strongly recommend it.

## Tools and Resources

The key tools developed as part of this project were the review matrices. They have been uploaded to the project deliverables section.

