

Summary

May 15, 2020

CATON Projet # P1924

Projet title: Pathway development from Laurentienne University B.A. in Environmental Studies to Boréal college and College La Cité Forestry or Agricultural programs

Responsible institution: Collège La Cité

Projet duration: April 15, 2020

Proposed update:

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SUMMARY

The main objective of this project was to study and analyze Boréal and La Cité's Forestry and Agricultural programs in order to develop agreements for Laurentian University students/graduates wishing to pursue a college specialization related to their completed B.A. in Environmental Studies.

Forestry

Following a detailed analysis of the Colleges and University programs (learning objectives, program and transversal skills), certain similarities were identified between the Forestry college program and the B.A. in Environmental Studies. The common elements were found in some of the more theoretical courses in the colleges' programs.

Despite certain similarities with the Forestry programs, the current analysis is not conclusive. The college programs contain a much higher number of practical learning activities in the field, in-company activities and projects with local partners than the University program does.

Agricultural

The Agricultural programs at La Cité and Boréal have only some common elements with the B.A. of Environmental Studies from Laurentian University. Following a detailed analysis, it was concluded that the majority of the learning outcomes related to specific skills, such as legislation related to the food industry, agricultural sciences, agricultural machinery, animal production, fruits and vegetables production and other notions directly related to the agricultural field, were not present in the University's curriculum.

General

The detailed analysis of the programs' course outlines, put forth the significant difference in the number of hours of practical/laboratory courses and experiential learning activities between the two colleges and Laurentian University. Because the practical dimension (specific skills, learning outcomes and work place components) constitutes more than 50% of the college programs, the alignment with the University's more theoretical learning outcomes proved difficult.

This analysis also brought to light the great challenge that the course offering in a college environment creates for the implementation of a reverse agreement with a university. Several scenarios have been assessed, but issues remain unresolved such as the scheduling of specialized courses and internships which are offered according to a fixed timeline during the two years of a college program. In short, even with some common elements between the Forestry programs and the B.A. in Environmental Studies, the course offering by the two colleges is currently proving to be too great a challenge.

Additionnel note

Having adopted a new Educational Model focused on a competency-based approach, La Cité is currently renewing all of its programs. Once this exercise is completed, the College will be able to offer to students enrolled in a university program, wishing to develop their practical skills related to their career choice, specialized “à la carte” courses and programs through smaller Learning Units.