



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Pathway development in college Health Science and university Liberal Science

Type: Pathways Development

Project Number: 2019-37 or P1937

Project Lead: Laurentian University

Collaborators: Le collège La Cité, le Collège Boréal et l'Université Laurentienne

Project Summary

The project offers Health Sciences graduates the opportunity to obtain an accelerated university degree via our Liberal Science B.Sc. pathway. It will also permit students in the Liberal Science program to take advantage of the credit recognition in the identified Health Sciences programs if they wish to enroll at the college.

Project Rationale

The relevance of developing these types of pathways became evident in light of the specific requirement for applicants in these fields working in hospital settings to have a Bachelor degree in order to access administrative positions.

Given that the Liberal Science B.Sc. offered at Laurentian is structured in a flexible manner and is comprised of a wide array of courses accessible remotely, it seemed to be the ideal program to align with for the intended objective.

Main Collaborators

La Cité, Collège Boréal and Laurentian University

La Cité and Collège Boréal were responsible for providing the documentation necessary to review the programs identified for the pathways, attending meetings and facilitating communication with the program coordinators as part of the work to review the correlations between each institution's courses.

As the main project coordinator, Laurentian University is responsible for carrying out the work plan, conducting the reviews, coordinating the exchange of communications and information with La Cité and Collège Boréal, providing good financial management and providing follow-up reports to ONCAT.

Outcomes Résultats

In fact, through this project, we hope not only to develop pathways from the college to the university, but also from the university to the college. Unfortunately, we have reached the conclusion that aside from the required complementary courses of the college programs, the specialized courses would not be recognized in light of the courses that comprise the Laurentian Liberal Science B.Sc. program.

However, the feasibility of pathways from the college programs to the university program remains very plausible. Everything will depend on the next steps in the approval of our recommendations.

Pathway(s) Development

Key Steps

The key step in the success of this project is certainly our choice to amend the review approach so that it is more in line with the specific structure of the Liberal Science B.Sc. program, by grouping together the college credits based on course themes.

Pathways Created

The final pathways in the approval stage are the following:

- 1) La Cité's Respiratory Therapy (3 years)
- 2) La Cité's Paramedic (2 years) and / La Cité's Advanced Paramedic (1 year)
- 3) La Cité's and Collège Boréal's Occupational and Physiotherapy Assistant (2 years)
- 4) La Cité's Electroneurodiagnostics (2 years)
- 5) Toward Laurentian University's Liberal Science B.Sc. program.

Hence, seven (6) [sic] pathways in all are pending approval by the Laurentian institutional bodies.

Incomplete Pathways

Indeed, one (1) of the seven (7) desired pathways cannot be developed for the time being. During the year, Collège Boréal decided to revise its Paramedic program. Given that the preliminary review of the correlations between the learning outcomes was done based on the old program structure, it was agreed that this pathway would not be submitted for the approval process this year, but that instead it would be considered once the revision of Collège Boréal's program is complete and the recognition recommendations are adjusted based on the revisions made to the program. Note, however, that the approval process for the La Cité Paramedic program will move forward.

Challenges

Naturally, the matter of deadlines is always a considerable issue. Collecting course outlines, developing matrices, and reviewing the correlations between the learning outcomes all appear to be steps that are attainable on an academic schedule. The approval processes by the institutional bodies should be considered the subsequent year, in order to be realistic.

Student Outcomes

The benefits of the pathways identified in this project extend beyond the usual benefits. In fact, college-university and university-college pathways generally seek to save the students who benefit from them time and money. In this case, not only will the students enjoy these benefits, but in the end, by obtaining a Bachelor degree, they can also access administrative positions that they would not have been able to apply to without a Bachelor degree.

Student Credential

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.

- Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Assistant Program (Collège Boréal) pathway to the Liberal Science B.Sc.: approximately 3 semesters.
- Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Assistant Program (La Cité) pathway to the Liberal Science B.Sc.: approximately 3 semesters.
- Electroneurodiagnostics Program pathway to the Liberal Science B.Sc.: approximately 3 semesters.
- Respiratory Therapy Program pathway to the Liberal Science B.Sc.: approximately 4 semesters.

- Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist Assistant Program pathway to the Liberal Science B.Sc.: approximately 3.5 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.

- Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Assistant Program (Collège Boréal) pathway to the Liberal Science B.Sc.: approximately \$11,250
- Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Assistant Program (La Cité) pathway to the Liberal Science B.Sc.: approximately \$11,250
- Electroneurodiagnostics Program pathway to the Liberal Science B.Sc.: approximately \$11,250
- Respiratory Therapy Program pathway to the Liberal Science B.Sc.: approximately \$15,000
- Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist Assistant Program pathway to the Liberal Science B.Sc.: approximately \$13,125

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 Liberal Science B.Sc. 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

The initial motivation for this project was essentially based on the competitive advantage it would give students on the job market in the hospital industry aspiring to be in administrative positions that require a Bachelor degree. Hence, we can say that this pathway indeed does contribute to students' employability.

Institutional Outcomes

None at this stage. Certainly, we have changed the way of conducting the reviews to respond to the specific structure of Laurentian's Liberal Science B.Sc. However, the changes with regard to institutional practices will be more in terms of the criteria that will confirm the approval of the pathways recommended by the various institutional bodies.

Sector or System Implications

The situation experienced with Collège Boréal and the Paramedic pathway (2 years) that we hoped to develop could probably have been anticipated at the time the projects were submitted.

Our experience shows that at least two years are required to develop a pathway, from the review of the program correlations to the finalization of the approval process. In that context, the scheduled dates of the revisions to the college program should be taken into consideration to ensure that the revision does not conflict with the objectives of the pathway projects.

Tips and Advice

The case of Laurentian University's Liberal Science B.Sc. program is quite unique. However, in the event that another program works the same way based on course themes rather than on prescribed courses, we strongly recommend not limiting ourselves to the correlations of the learning outcomes. Grouping college courses together by themes is the methodology to adopt.

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.

