The University of Ontario Institute of Technology Pathways Experience. A Cultural Journey Through the Academies
UOIT—2003 until now

• UOIT is an innovative and market-oriented institution, pursuing inquiry, discovery and application through excellence in teaching and learning, value-added research, a vibrant student life and to offer programs with a view to creating opportunities for college graduates to complete a university degree in a technologically enabled learning environment.

• 8500 students
What are Pathways?

- Definition:
  - A Pathways student is defined as “a student that has previous college experience at some point before coming to UOIT”.

- Pathways are not only common to UOIT, but tied directly to institution’s birth and purpose:
  - UOIT shares a physical campus and resources with Durham College.
  - UOIT’s mission to ‘offer programs with a view to creating opportunities for college graduates to complete a university degree.’
# Pathways at UOIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathway</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminology &amp; Justice Bridge</td>
<td>Sep 2005</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2005 = 42 students, 2011 = 85 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce Bridge</td>
<td>Sep 2005</td>
<td>BCOMM</td>
<td>2005 = 11 students, 2011 = 47 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPN to BSc in Nursing</td>
<td>Sep 2005</td>
<td>BScN</td>
<td>2005 = 36 students, 2011 = 236 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce Embedded Bridge</td>
<td>Sep 2007</td>
<td>BCOMM</td>
<td>2007 = 13 students, 2011 = 17 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allied Health Sciences</td>
<td>Sep 2008</td>
<td>BAHSc</td>
<td>2008 = 26 students, 2011 = 76 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology Bridge</td>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>BIT</td>
<td>2010 = 6 students, 2011 = 8 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Studies Bridge</td>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2010 = 18 students, 2011 = 28 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Bridge</td>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2010 = 4 students, 2011 = 14 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences –Kinesiology</td>
<td>Sep 2010</td>
<td>HLSc</td>
<td>2010 = 7 students, 2011 = 25 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear Power Bridge</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>BASc</td>
<td>2011 = 16 students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ontario Credit Transfer Models

Curriculum Analysis

- Course-by-course comparison
- Analysis of Program Learning Outcomes
- Student record of successful postsecondary at diploma or advanced diploma level; program affinity is not relevant

Transfer Credit Mechanism

- Direct entry with course credit toward degree requirements
  - assigned
  - not assigned

- Direct entry to a specific point in a program with block credit
  - w/ bridge
  - w/o bridge

- Direct entry with course credits toward program requirements
  - assigned
  - not assigned
  - major
  - elective

- Direct entry with undifferentiated block credit equal to a specific entry point of a degree (usually 3rd year)
  - w/ bridge
  - w/o bridge
Other Government Initiatives

• Multi-year Agreements (MYAs):
  – As part of broader accountability and quality strategy by the provincial government, MYAs were developed in 2005.
  – MYAs have now expanded to include participation in credit transfer systems.

• The Drummond Report:
  – Released in 2012.
  – Includes recommendations around student mobility and credit transfer:
    • Colleges and universities should agree on a standard of educational attainment and quality that would allow college students who have completed two years and meet predetermined academic achievement criteria to transfer into the university system.
    • Create a comprehensive, enforceable credit recognition system
Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT)

• Established in 2011.
• ONCAT is the successor organization to the College University Consortium Council (CUCC).
• Goals include:
  – Provide leadership in the development and ongoing enhancement of postsecondary education (PSE) transfer credit policies and practices in Ontario.
  – Research, assess and report on credit transfer activity and results.
  – Provide support and advocacy for students with regard to credit transfer.
CUCC Bridges & Development

- Information Technology Diploma to degree
- General Arts and Science to degree
- Biotechnology to BSc
- Environmental Science to BSc
- Mechanical Technology to degree???
- Electrical Technology to degree???
Challenges Regarding College to University Transfer in Ontario

- Business models
- Curricular issues
- Institutional architecture
- Institutional mandates
- Cultural issues between Faculties and faculty
- Teaching versus research issues within the Academies...
- Accreditation
- Faculty preparation and professional training
- Bi-modal student needs for flexible delivery models
Challenges Regarding College to University Transfer in Ontario

- Co-competition between institutions
- Online competition—(Access)
- Learner expectations
  - Transfer shock
  - different cultural expectations
  - Special need students
- Funding
- Debt loads for students
- Technology skills [specific to UOIT]
Barriers for Students

- Transfer shock
- Sticker shock
- Bridging requirements
- Legacy issues from high school in Ontario
- Length to degree completion
Opportunities for UOIT

• New students are revenue streams
• Providing students with richer learning experiences such as practical and theoretical knowledge
• Benefits of diverse learners in university (mature students)
• Expanded student pool to draw upon when addressing 18-24 population decline
• It’s a good thing!
Policy Environment

- Transforming the current ad-hoc credit transfer process requires a multi-year approach leading to a comprehensive credit transfer system that will truly serve students/learners.

- Government has a vital leadership role to play, otherwise the system will continue to be a patchwork of practices.

Credit Transfer System Vision

- Navigate the postsecondary system effectively
- Reduce duplication of prior relevant learning
- Reach preferred educational destination faster

Goals of the Credit Transfer System

- Expand and improve transfer pathways
- Improve transparency and access to information about pathways and credit transfer
- Support student success
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