

APPENDIX D

Context for Information Collection

The role of regulatory colleges and voluntary membership associations in controlling employment in an occupation, trade or profession, conferring professional designations or in developing standards of practice is not always clear-cut. It is important for students that information about programs of instruction accurately describes entry-to-practice requirements in a field of study.

Regulated Professions and Trades

For some professions and trades, there is legislation requiring workers in the profession or trade to be licensed or certified by a regulatory body in order to practice the profession or trade in Ontario. The authority of these regulatory bodies comes from an Ontario statute e.g. *Professional Engineers Act*. Government generally limits the granting of legislative regulatory authority to private bodies in occupations and professions where it has identified that there is a public interest in having oversight over the standards of the profession or trade.

Some regulatory authorities have a legislated right to determine educational level and to accredit programs of study and will restrict certification or licensing to graduates of these programs.

The purpose of accredited status is to maintain the quality of programs, to promote continuing improvement of instruction and to ensure that students receive an education consistent with standards for entry into practice or advanced practice in their respective field or discipline.

Regulatory Authority without Accreditation

Most regulatory authorities do not have legislative authority to accredit or approve educational programs but they do determine requirements to practise as a member of the profession and control use of the professional designation. They may also develop standards of practice and competence.

The organization will identify the criteria for registration/membership which may include a requirement for the successful completion of certain identified educational programs. The list of programs might be those offered by named institutions or programs accredited by other third party accrediting bodies, for example the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario recognizes programs accredited by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists.

All decisions regarding students' eligibility for licensing or certification, in a regulated profession or trade, fall within the jurisdiction of the certification or registration authority.

Voluntary Associations

In the majority of occupations, professions and trades there is no statutory body regulating entry-to-practice requirements but voluntary membership associations may determine rules for their own members. Voluntary certification is used by these member associations to represent an individual's professional competence and affirms a knowledge and experience base for practitioners in a particular field. One or more private association may represent a profession

and they generally function as advocates for their members and may also develop voluntary standards of practice.

A voluntary professional association /organization has no legislative authority to require that a student complete an accredited or recognized program as a condition of employment. Voluntary membership associations may, however, accredit or recognize programs that are required for membership in their organization, e.g. CIPS (Canadian Information Professional Association).

Some voluntary associations do not recognize or accredit specific educational programs and membership may be determined by examination, proof of employment, character reference, etc. for example the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association.

APPENDIX D - Regulatory Status Form

MANDATORY REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Where licensing or certification is **required by legislation** for entry to practice in the profession or trade, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities requires that colleges ensure that their programs will meet the requirements of the regulatory body in order to be approved for funding.

- There is a legislative requirement that program graduates must be certified or licensed by a regulatory authority to practice or work in the occupation.

Name of regulatory authority _____

- (A) The program has been accredited or approved by the regulatory authority or its identified third party.

OR

- (B) The college is working toward accreditation with the regulatory authority.

Status of application and expected date of achievement _____

- (C) If the regulatory authority does not accredit educational programs directly or by an identified third party, it has formally acknowledged (e.g. in its published or legislated registration requirements) that the program graduates will be eligible to write any required certifying or registration exam or that the program is otherwise recognized for the purposes of certifying or registering a graduate.

★ **Please submit an acknowledgement and/or evidence from the regulatory authority to support (a) or (b) or (c) above.**

VOLUNTARY REQUIREMENTS

Colleges may choose to have a program accredited or recognized by a voluntary membership organization or association. Graduate eligibility for association recognition or adherence to standards imposed by the body is **not a requirement** for program funding approval by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Recognition of the program by a voluntary professional body:

- Is being sought: Name of professional body: _____

- The college is working toward recognition.
Status of application and expected date of achievement _____

- Recognition has been received.
Type of recognition e.g. accreditation, graduates eligible to write membership exams, etc. _____

★ **Please submit an acknowledgement and/or evidence from the voluntary association that recognition has been received.**

- Recognition is not being sought (*please note there may be titling implications for programs that are not compliant in an area where other existing programs are*).