Ontario College Quality Assurance Service
Service de l'assurance de la qualité des collèges de l'Ontario

Quality Break

Welcome to the OCQAS Newsletter - your triannual peek behind the quality scenes at the OCQAS with quality news, updates, resources and more!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OCQAS Staffing Announcements
OCQAS has a new full-time staff member joining the team!

CVS Updates & Reminders
We don't want to miss your message or keep you waiting!

The CVS Program Application Checklist
Have you used this checklist for your most recent submissions to CVS? It may be worth another look!

New Template for Informal Reviews, Program Modifications and VLO Updates
CVS is making finding the right form easier for you!

CVS Training Videos
Have a look at our newest training videos!

OCQAS Working Groups Updates
Get the latest updates on what the working groups are up to!

Transparency · Accountability · Collaboration · Growth · Potential
Ensuring quality and consistency across the post-secondary education system
Visit our website! WWW.OCQAS.ORG

OCQAS Staffing Announcements

Erin Gray will continue her secondment at OCQAS on Mondays and Tuesdays until the end of June 2022.

OCQAS would like to welcome our new full-time employee, Sylvie Mainville, Quality Assurance Manager. Sylvie comes to OCQAS from Cambrian College where she managed QA processes and mechanisms.

"I love to be part of a team that values quality in education because I believe education changes lives. I look forward to learning with OCQAS colleagues and sharing my knowledge of curriculum development, accreditation, and quality assurance. I bring dedication, accountability, attention to detail, creative ideas, and always a smile - both in English and en français." - Sylvie

CVS Updates & Reminders

CVS Email Reminder
When contacting CVS via email please send the email to the common CVS email address to ensure that emails are received by all CVS staff regardless of who is working that day. The new common email address is cvs@ocqas.org.

Winter Newsletter Link
Winter Newsletter was loaded with valuable information and updates including our Annual Report and OCQAS Strategic Plan. Click here to view the Winter Newsletter

CVS Training Requirement
College staff supporting submissions to CVS are required to participate in CVS Training. This requirement is intended to ensure each college staff member has the relevant information and understands the expectations for submissions to CVS. The training is to educate college staff in foundations of outcomes-based approach, titling protocol and MCU expectations including the Ontario Qualifications Framework. Please ensure your staff have received this training prior to engaging with CVS submissions.

VLO updates and informal review of new VLOs – INCLUDING title modifications!
Just a reminder for Colleges that are updating their VLOs or creating new programs on descriptions, CVS kindly asks colleges to take advantage of an informal review by email using the CVS Submission Template (Word document). Receiving the informal review request by email makes it easier for college staff and CVS staff to provide comments and feedback in a more efficient and meaningful way. Any questions? Reach out to CVS for help!

Apprenticeship Project Update
CVS has been supporting this project validating these OCC programs in alignment with the OQF. To date CVS has validated a total of 226 apprenticeship OCCs which represents 81% of the total apprenticeship programs in the Ontario College system.

For more information on this project, please check out the Developing an Ontario College Credential for Apprenticeship Programs resource on the website, or contact CVS at cvs@ocqas.org

The CVS Program Application Checklist

The CVS Program Application Checklist is available on the Resources page on the OCQAS website. Colleges are encouraged to use the checklist when completing a submission to ensure all information is appropriately represented in the submission. Click here to navigate to the CVS resources page where you will find the current 'CVS Program Application Checklist'.

To facilitate the use of this checklist for program submissions, it will be included as an appendix in the 2022-2023 CVS Guidelines

New Template for
Informal Reviews, Program Modifications and VLO Updates

CVS is making it easier to find the right form to complete and submit when seeking informal review, requesting program modifications and updating VLOs for programs that are not in the CVS Online AA Tool. You can find the new template here.

We value your feedback. If you have any questions or comments about this new template, please connect with us at cvs@ocqas.org .

CVS Training Videos

CVS has created a set of short introductory videos. These videos are intended for college staff involved with new program development and program renewal. Click on the links below to navigate to the videos on the OCQAS webpage. Topics include;

- Meet CVS
- Program Standards and Descriptions
- The MTCU Code
- Titling Protocol
- The Ontario Qualifications Framework

The OCQAS wants to know how to serve you better. Please take a moment to complete this short survey to help OCQAS to identify your biggest challenge and how best to communicate with you.

OCQAS Communications and Social Media Survey

Would you like to learn with us? OCQAS is open to hosting PD opportunities that work with your schedule. We welcome proposals that would fit your needs such as 1-2 days, 1-2 per week for 1-6 months, 2 or more weeks in a row or 1 full semester. Talk to us!

OCQAS Working Group Updates

Working Group Updates
In 2021, OCQAS started a series of working groups to support its own quality assurance processes. Here are some updates on the working group's achievements so far.

CQAAP Working Group
The CQAAP Guidelines Working Group has met 4 times in 2022 so far and will continue to meet monthly. They have been reviewing the CQAAP Standards and documentation, Working group discussions around program selection processes, evidence organization, evolution of college processes, and informal reviews. The working group is committed to addressing these priority topics and updating the guidelines for the 2022-23 academic year.

CVS Guidelines Working Group
The Guidelines Working Group is well on its way to updating the CVS Guidelines. A draft is being reviewed by the working group and copy edits will be complete by the end of June. The revised guidelines will include clarity of process for submissions and the CVS Program Application Checklist will be included as an appendix in this new version. The group also had a role in providing feedback on the new CVS Template for Submissions and the training videos mentioned earlier in this newsletter.

Indigenous Thought Leaders (ITL) Circle
The Indigenous Thought Leaders Circle group met and continue to work on relationships and storytelling. Further exploration of editing Requirements 1.1 and 5.8 were discussed to include Indigenous presence to the QA mechanisms. The goal is similar to the edits completed in Requirements 1.3, 4.2 and 6.3.

CVS Online Tool Working Group
The Online Tool Working Group made more than 25 recommendations for improvements to the tool including its usability and functionality. To date, the developers have implemented several of those recommendations and a plan is in place to implement other recommendations over the coming months. As a result of the recommendations, the following changes have been implemented.

- Roll over function for the VLOs and Course Codes in the Program Curriculum tab
- Semester hours totals are now visible to colleges
- Confirmation email is automatically sent to the contact person for the submission when "Submit" is clicked
- English colleges do not see the French language EESs in the mapping tab
- VLO and EES mapping table – first columns frozen to allow easy reference when scrolling in the mapping tab
- VLO mapping is broken down by semester
- "Save" button is new live
- Comments are time stamped

More great improvements to come including the ability to create a PDF of multiple program descriptions under on e MTCU code and the addition of a course checkbox for WIL with a drip-down menu to identify the type of course. Stay tuned!