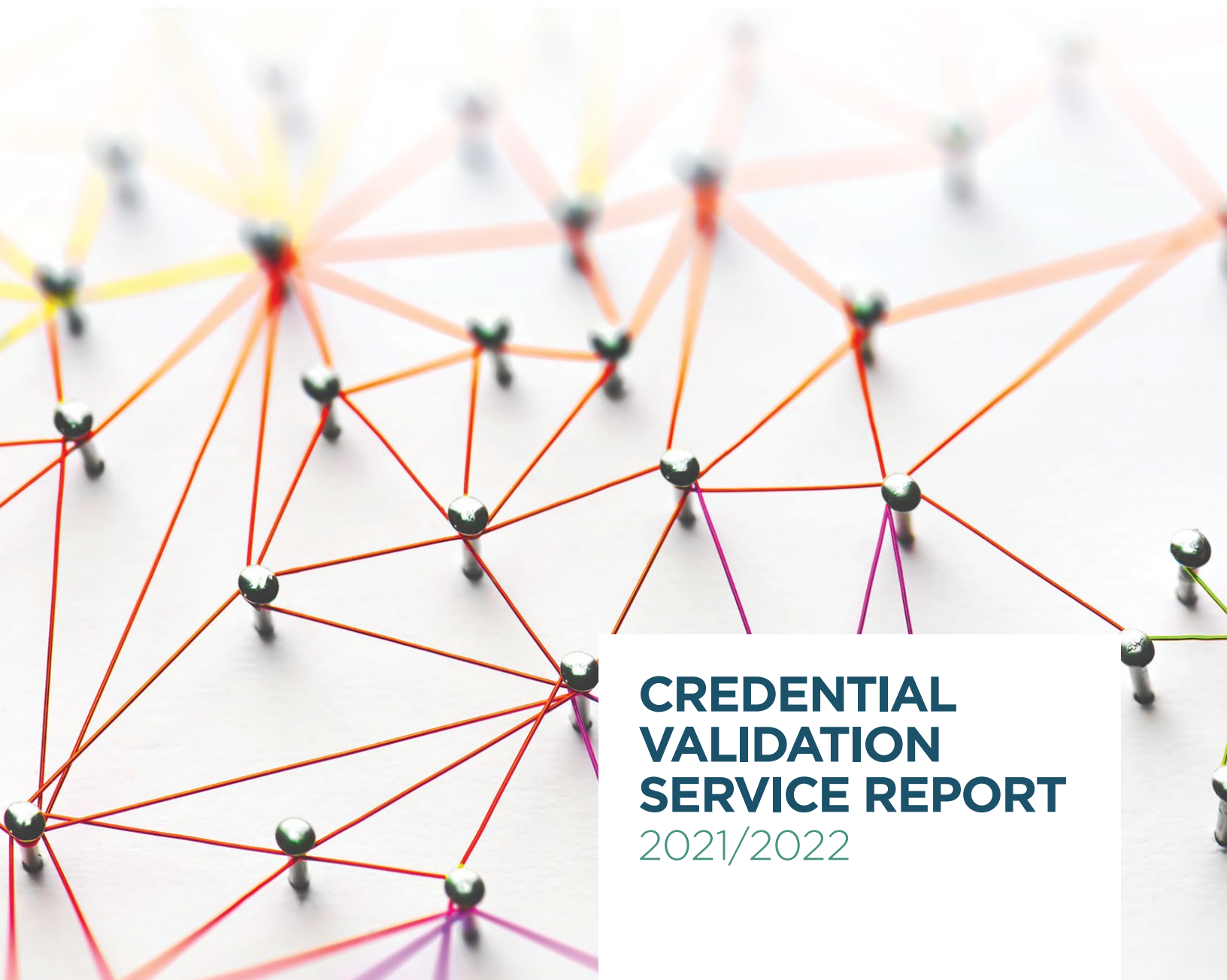




Ontario College Quality Assurance Service

Service de l'assurance de la qualité des  
collèges de l'Ontario



# **CREDENTIAL VALIDATION SERVICE REPORT**

2021/2022

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# Credential Validation Service (CVS) ACTIVITY

The Credential Validation Service (CVS) objective is to maintain the integrity of the credentials offered by the colleges, province wide. To that effect, CVS works closely with the colleges supporting them in the validation of new program proposals and with different units of the Ministry validating new programs and Provincial Program Standards.

### Validation of College Program Proposals

Over the last 17 years, CVS has averaged 190 validations per year (which include both the Program Validations average (160) and Title Modifications average (30)). The total number of validations for 2021/2022 (290) is one third more than the 17-year average. This academic year, the Title Modifications represented 7% of the CVS validation requests, which is a lower than the 17 year average of 16%.

### Credential Validation Summary by Process (September 2021-August 2022)

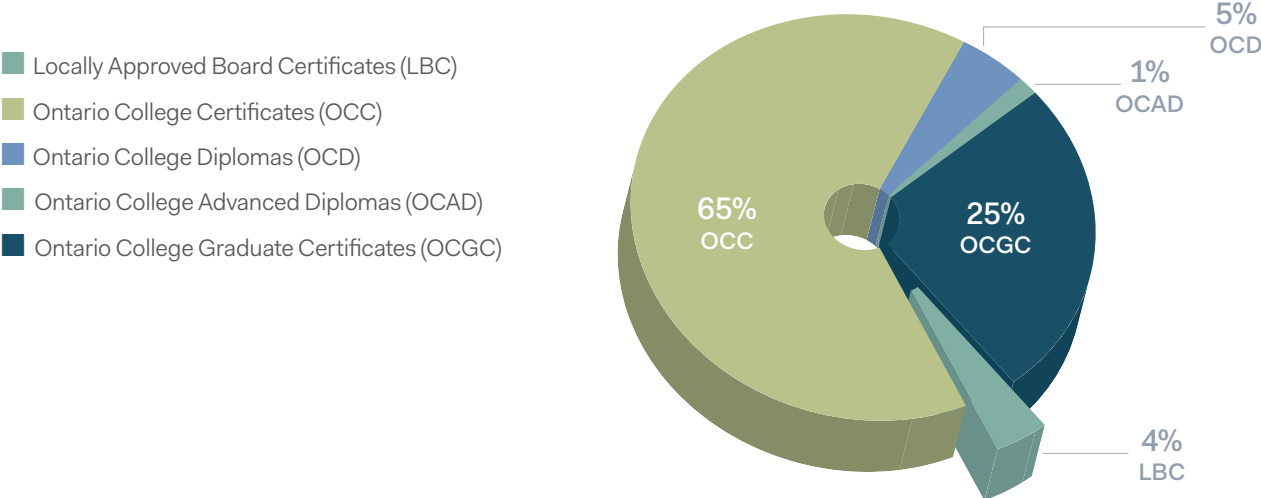
New Program Validations		Title Modifications	
17-year Average	2021/2022	17-year Average	2021/2022
160 (84%)	269 (93%)	30 (16%)	21 (7%)

### Credential Validation Summary by Credential (September 2021-August 2022)

The Credential averages change from year to year. Before 2012, the most proposed credential was the Ontario College Diploma. However, since 2012/2013, the highest proportion of proposals and validations have been for the Ontario Graduate Certificate credential. This is the first year the Ontario College Certificate was the most validated credential.

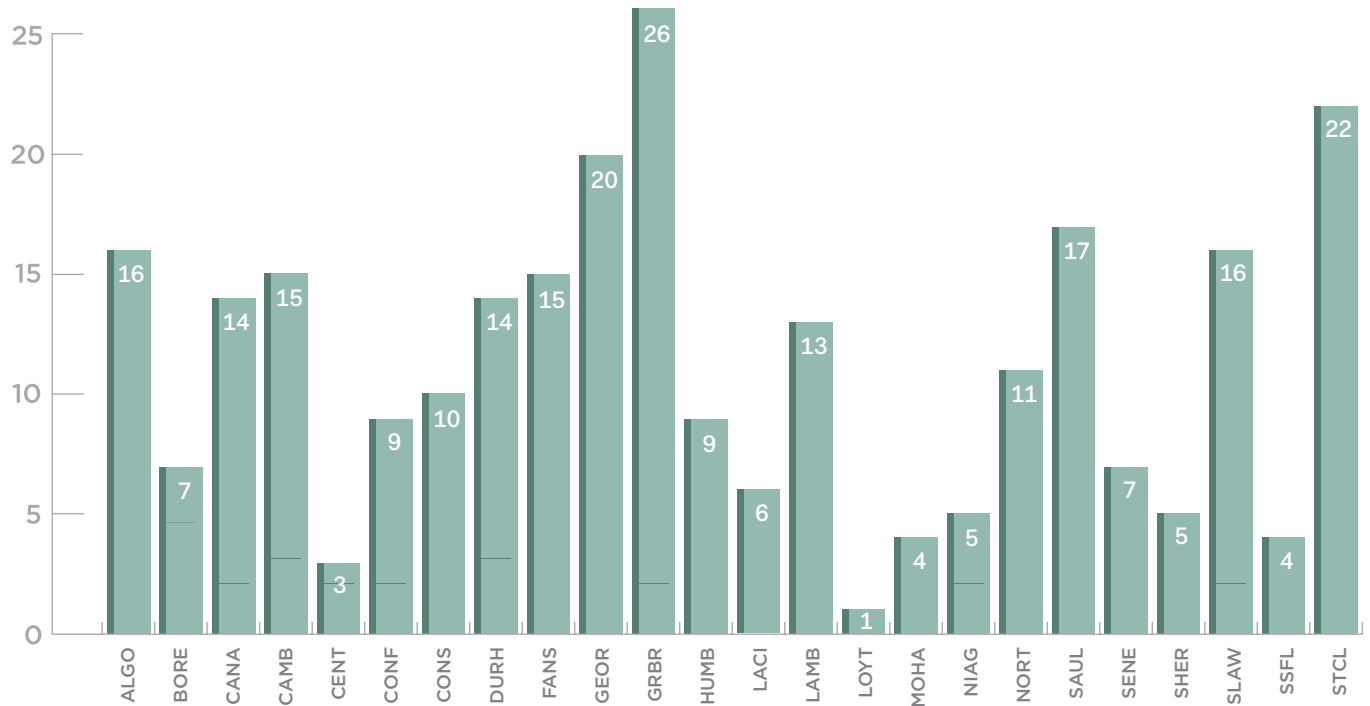
Credentials 2021-2022				
LBC	OCC	OCD	OCAD	OCGC
11	173	13	4	68

### NEW PROGRAM VALIDATIONS BY CREDENTIAL – 2021/2022



*Credential Validation Summary by College (September 2021 - August 2022)*

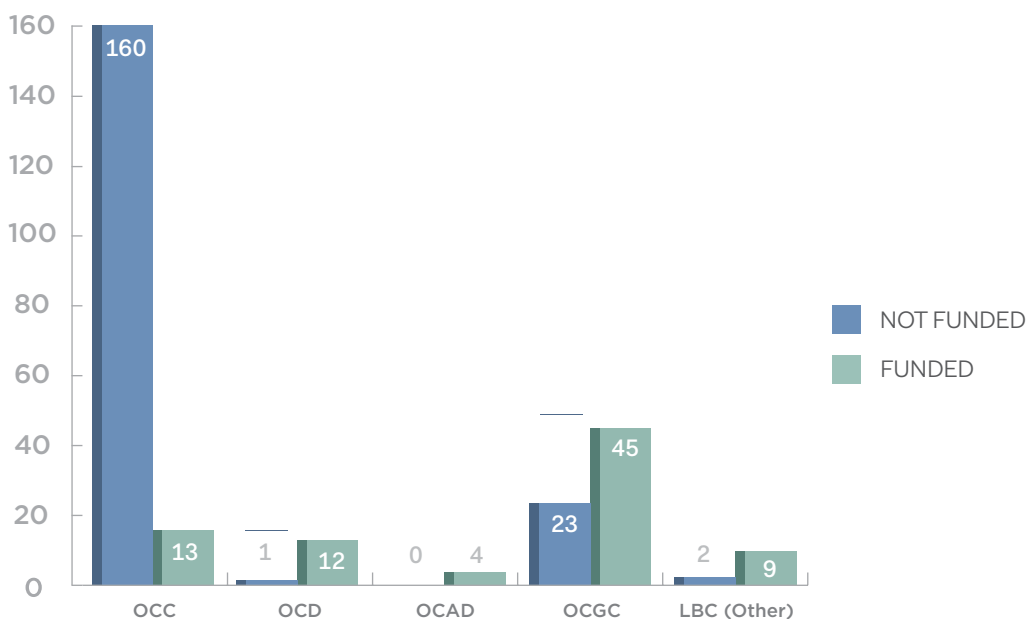
**NEW PROGRAM PROPOSALS BY COLLEGE – 2021/2022**



The number of programs submitted to CVS varies by college.

*Credential Validation Summary by Funding Type (September 2021 - August 2022)*

**NEW PROGRAM PROPOSALS BY FUNDING TYPE – 2021/2022**



This year we saw a big change in the percentage of programs validated that did not require funding. In the last six years the majority of the Validations were for programs that were requiring funding from the Ministry (72%) with a minority validated for full cost recovery (28%). This year the percentage of programs validated for full cost recovery increased to (69%). The increase is due to a response from the colleges to the Apprenticeship Reform, the Minister's Binding Policy Directive on Public College-Private Partnerships, and increased demand to serve international markets.

## College Program Proposal Support

There has been a significant number of new college staff assigned to new program development/modification processes. As a result, the CVS continues to require that all college personnel involved in developing and proposing new programs, take the Introduction to CVS workshop. This enables new staff to get better acquainted with the process and avoid any delays in validations.

A recorded CVS summer training session to this effect, is available on the website for new staff to access at any time.

This year, CVS identified key elements that colleges need to consider when submitting a program validation, and created videos that are now available on our website:

- Meet the CVS Team
- Program Standards and Descriptions
- The MTCU Code
- The Ontario Qualifications Framework (OQF)
- CVS Titling Protocols

CVS maintains an open line of communication with all stakeholders and the seasonal Newsletters keep the college system informed of changes in expectations from the Ministry.

## Informal Review Template

The template's purpose is to ensure that all the necessary information is provided during the informal review process via email. The template and email exchange allow for a robust review and helpful communication tips and suggestions which can be difficult to carry out within the CVS Anytime/Anywhere Tool.

Informal reviews help reduce the number of transactions between the college and CVS in the tool and may be used to solicit feedback about mapping to the correct MTCU code, choosing an appropriate title, or developing sound VLOs.

With all the information in one document, the CVS team can work more effectively with the colleges to ensure that consistent feedback is provided and documented.

The template can be found on the [CVS Resources](#) page of the website.

## Validation of Provincial Program Standards

Program Standards and Descriptions are the starting point for program development and review across the college system and CVS works closely with the Program Standards Evaluation Unit (PSU) at the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to review, advise and validate Program Standards. During the Standards development process, CVS has several conversations and meetings with the Policy Managers and Project Officers related to the emerging vocational learning outcomes and titles under consideration to provide suggestions and feedback. In this academic year, one (1) Program Standard cluster in both English and French (Electronic Engineering Technician and Electronic Engineering Technology) was validated.

## **Validation of Revised Vocational Learning Outcomes**

Unlike Program Standards, Program Descriptions do not have a timeline for review and working with old Program Descriptions can be complex and challenging. CVS has been working with the colleges who want to share their validated, revised Program Descriptions, adding them to the CVS tool to offer a current Description to the users.

## **Credential Validation Service (CVS) Anytime Anywhere (AA)**

In May 2018, CVS launched a web-based application that allows colleges to access all the MTCU Program Standards and Descriptions and submit a CVS application online.

In 2021/2022, a full update of the tool was completed; hosting, development and maintenance were migrated to OCAS. Working with OCAS has made the application more stable and responsive to the needs of the system and the functionality more user friendly and effective.

The following are some of the updates that were made to the tool:

- Mapping is done at the semester level
- Courses can be moved, and ordered
- Colleges can delete draft program applications
- Colleges can see the table with the tally of semester hours
- The tool collates the feedback received and it gets sent as part of the review email
- Colleges receive a confirmation that their program has been submitted.
- A new check-box has been added to each course to identify it as dedicated to Experiential Learning.

It is thanks to the hard work and dedication of the CVS AA Tool working group that CVS was able to improve the functionality of the tool.

## **CVS Credential Validation Guidelines Working Group**

The CVS Credential Validation Guidelines document was created a few years ago to collate the best practices for submitting a program validation. Many of the documented practices were created and added in response to requests from the Ministry. Thanks to the CVS Credential Validations Guidelines working group's commitment and attention to detail, the guidelines are clearer, more organized and consumable.

## **Ontario College Certificate – Apprenticeship**

CVS worked closely with Colleges Ontario and the college system to ensure that every apprentice who completes their final in-school learning portion at a college should receive a relevant Ontario College Certificate - Apprenticeship.

This year, CVS validated 160 apprenticeship programs, and 240 since the project started.

Colleges' engagement and participation for the validation of these programs, was outstanding!

## Trends in New Program Development

In response to the needs of industry and the communities they serve, colleges are creating programs in fields of practices that did not exist before.

The following are the new program titles:

- Advanced Live Digital Media Production
- Asset Management
- Cloud Computing Technologies
- Cybersecurity – Automobility
- Cybersecurity Analytics - Automobility
- Emergency Services Communication
- Entrepreneurship Management - Food Innovation
- Immigration Case Management
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Regulatory Affairs & Quality Operations
- Serious Game Design
- Sustainable Urban and Transportation Planning

# A Word from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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CVS supports Ontario Public Colleges in meeting their program goals. The Colleges are very diverse and often their programs needs are as well. CVS aims at finding creative solutions to assist Colleges in meeting their stakeholder demands and expectations.

CVS is always looking for ways to better serve the colleges and, over the years, has developed a variety of means by which it informs and supports its users. 2021/2022 has been such a productive year at CVS and that is thanks to the wonderful assistance from the working groups.

The members of the groups are users of the tools and services and guide CVS' continuous improvement of tools, templates and documents. In 2022/2023, CVS plans to engage representatives again with working groups to continue to improve its service.

Additionally, CVS plans to better organize its resources on the website for easier access and consumption. Feedback from stakeholders has been sought and an update will be launched later in 2022-2023.

This year, we were fortunate to add a French-speaking full-time employee to the OCQAS Team. Her help in supporting and developing resources (especially French ones) has been well received. More resources and communications will be bilingual moving forward which was overdue.

At CVS, we are happy to be part of the development of the continuously expanding program options. We look forward to this year's collaborations and successes.

Sincerely,







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