



Ontario College Quality Assurance Service

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



# **CREDENTIAL VALIDATION SERVICE REPORT**

2022/2023

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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 18 years, CVS has averaged 191 validations per year (which include both the Program Validations average (161) and Title Modifications average (30)). The total number of validations for 2022/2023 (197) very close to the 18-year average. This academic year, the Title Modifications represented 13% of the CVS validation requests, which is a lower than the 18-year average of 15%.

### Credential Validation Summary by Process (September 2022-August 2023)

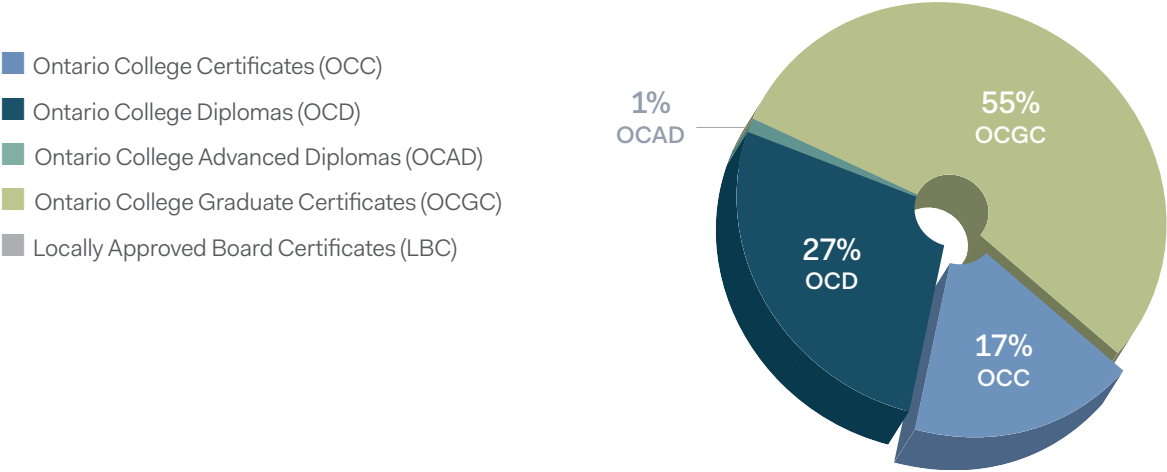
New Program Validations		Title Modifications	
18-year Average	2022/2023	18-year Average	2022/2023
161 (85%)	172 (87%)	30 (15%)	25 (13%)

### Credential Validation Summary by Credential (September 2022-August 2023)

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 year is no exception.

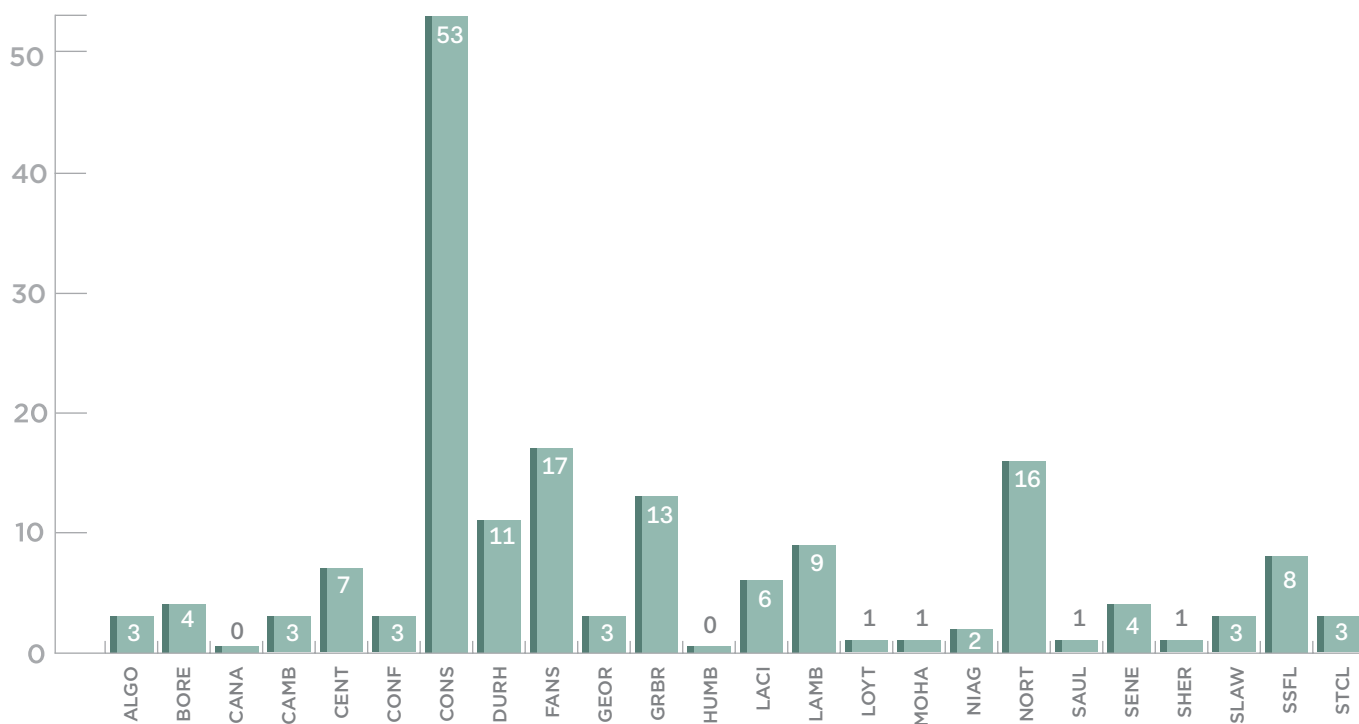
Credentials 2022-2023				
LBC	OCC	OCD	OCAD	OCGC
0	30	46	2	94

### NEW PROGRAM VALIDATIONS BY CREDENTIAL – 2022/2023



## Credential Validation Summary by College (September 2022 - August 2023)

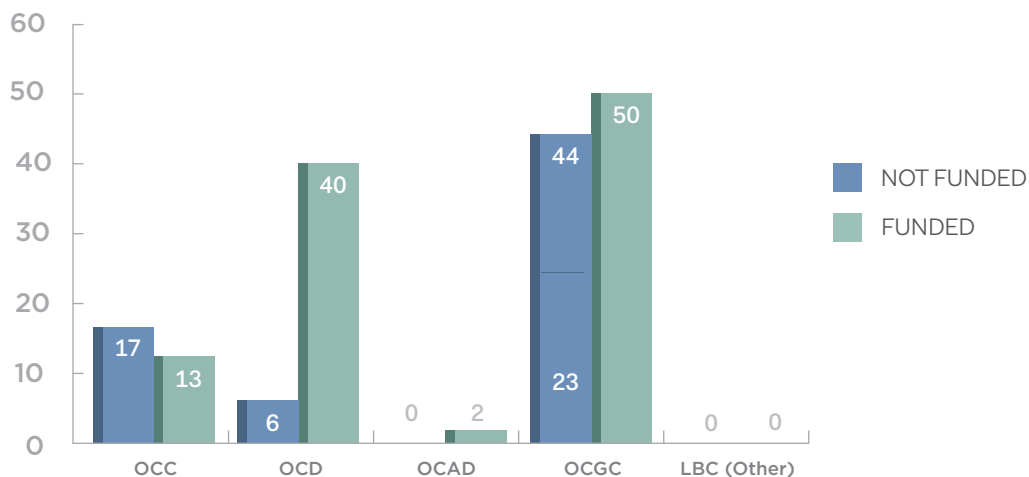
### NEW PROGRAM PROPOSALS BY COLLEGE – 2022/2023



The number of programs submitted to CVS varies by college.

## Credential Validation Summary by Funding Type (September 2022 - August 2023)

### NEW PROGRAM PROPOSALS BY FUNDING TYPE – 2022/2023



Last year we saw a significant change in the percentage of programs validated that did not require funding due to a response from the colleges to the Apprenticeship Reform, the Minister’s Binding Policy Directive on Public College-Private Partnerships, and the increased demand to serve international markets. This year, the numbers normalized as per the previous six years, where most of the Validations are for programs requiring funding from the Ministry (61%) with a minority validated for full cost recovery (39%).

## 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 CVS Basics and CVS Basics Part 2 workshops. This enables new staff to get better acquainted with the process and avoid any delays in validations.

A recorded CVS summer training session and other training [videos](#) are available for those waiting for a workshop ; they are available on the website for new staff to access at any time.

The videos include:

- Meet CVS
- Program Standards and Descriptions
- The MTCU Code
- The Ontario Qualifications Framework (OQF)
- CVS Titling Protocols
- Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLOs) and,
- CVS Basics Workshop

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

At the beginning of the year, we released the "CVS Template for Informal Review" which colleges submitted via email for title modifications, program modifications, VLO updates, and new program proposals. This template consolidated previous CVS templates into a single document. It helped reduce the number of transactions between the college and CVS in the tool and was 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 place, the CVS team was able to work more effectively with the colleges to ensure that consistent feedback was provided and documented.

The template and below table help streamline processes and reduce unnecessary work for the colleges and CVS.

	Mapped to a Program Standard	Mapped to a Program Description	Submit by email using the Informal Review Template	Submit via CVS AA Tool (Online)
Program validated before 2018	●		●	
Program validated before 2018		●	●	
Program validated after May 2018	●			●
Program validated after May 2018		●	● Required informal review prior to the CVS AA Tool Submission	●
New Program Proposal	●			●
New Program Proposal		●	● Required informal review prior to the CVS AA Tool Submission	●

## **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 engages in discussions and meetings with the Policy Managers and Project Officers regarding emerging vocational learning outcomes and titles, offering suggestions and feedback. In the current year, CVS validated eight (8) Program Standards in both English and French: Pharmacy Technician (51623), Educational Support (51228), and the Architectural cluster (50600 and 60600). The following four (4) Program Standards were validated only in English: Horticulture Technician (53905) and the Environmental cluster (52700, 62700 and 72700).

## **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 breadth of current Descriptions to all 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.

The application has been very stable and responsive to the requirements of the system and the functionality seems to address the needs of the colleges.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the CVS AA Tool working group, for their feedback and insights, the tool functions and responds better to the input from users.

## **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. This year, in response to Ministry expectations, new practices were added. Thanks to the CVS Credential Validations Guidelines working group's commitment and attention to detail, the guidelines are clearer, more organized and consumable.

The CVS Credential Validation Guidelines document is examined yearly and modified according to Ministry expectations and recommendations from the users.

## **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, the project was completed with more than 254 apprenticeship programs validated over the last three years.

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.

Below are a selection of new program titles:

- Advanced Social Media Production - Auteurism
- Agricultural Automation Technician – Greenhouse System Controls
- Interactive and immersive arts
- Biotechnology
- Charcuterie and Artisanal Foods
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Clinical Bioinformatics
- Creative Industries Management
- Electric Drive Vehicle Technician
- Electric Light Rail Technician
- Geographic Information Systems for Analytics
- Global Professional Practices
- Guest Relations Management - Concierge Specialist
- Immigration and Refugee Case Management
- Initiation aux arts interactifs et immersifs
- Intercultural Leadership
- Music Industry Management and Artist Development
- Paswe' Aatigok Anishnaabemowin Language Foundations
- People Analytics
- Professional Selling and Business Development
- Real Estate Development and Management
- Social Media Foundations - Content Creation
- Strategic Change Management, Leadership and Transformation
- Sustainable Marketing Communication
- Sustainable Urban Design
- Visual Development for Entertainment

# A Word from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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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.

We are happy to announce, the average response time in the 2022/2023 for CVS requests was less than one day. This timely feedback is provided by two reviewers and complemented with constructive feedback, which is valued appreciated by the system.

Next year we will be doing an in-depth review of the Credential Validation Service with the goal of streamlining the process and improving the agency's credibility in support of our goal of providing positive, timely and constructive responses that support program quality and help colleges develop current and relevant programs that they are proud of!

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Cuff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.





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