



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 peek behind the quality scenes with quality news, updates, resources and more!

**Newsletter #22 – September 2024**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- A Dedication from OCQAS
- CVS Tool improvements
- What is new in the world of QA
- Social Media Update
- Working Groups Update
- New to QA? Need a Refresher?
- Q&A with QA

## A Dedication from OCQAS

We trust that everyone had the opportunity to take some time off over the summer and recharge for the upcoming academic year. We are eager to see the innovations and developments you have planned for 2024/2025. We look forward to reviewing the new programs you are developing, which we will be validating through CVS, as well as the new processes you are creating to meet the standards and requirements of CQAAP.

We have been busy developing an AI tool to help us review and develop vocational learning outcomes. It is still in its early stages, but we are hopeful that it will make our job and those of the curriculum developers much easier.

We are also developing scripts to create new videos that will help curriculum developers better understand the secrets of the MTCU APS table, what is and what is not considered 'Experiential Learning', and how to map to two MTCU Codes.

## CVS Tool Improvements

We are happy to announce a few new improvements to the CVS AA Tool.


- Colleges can add comments on each section of the tool.
- Colleges can request Title Modifications for programs validated prior to May 2018.
- Colleges can view Existing Descriptions of a MTCU Code on screen and PDF.

## What is New in the World of QA

- Nolan Quinn has been appointed as the new Minister of Colleges and Universities, succeeding Jill Dunlop. Quinn previously served as the Associate Minister of Forestry. Jill Dunlop has transitioned to the role of Minister of Education following Todd Smith's resignation.
- BC is implementing an Educational Quality Assurance code to protect international students.  
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024PSFS0035-001111>
- Career Colleges Ontario (CCO) is working with MCU to develop a Quality Assurance framework to maintain and improve their educational standards in the current competitive market.

## Social Media Update

We are looking to connect with you! Shouldn't everyone know how much work goes into program and institutional quality? Karan, our Social Media Strategist has creative and impactful ideas on connecting OCQAS to college social media to highlight how much work colleges put into quality. Some colleges are already on board, and you will see our shared posts soon! We've also created templates that can easily be adapted to match your college's brand colors. You'll find more details on the next page. [Let us know if you want to connect with us as well!](#)



## Quality Education at Abc College

At Abc College, we pride ourselves on delivering the best quality education to our students. But, did you know we don't do it alone?

## Meet our Ally



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

They work with us and other Ontario colleges to help meet the high educational standards set by the ministry.




## Assuring Quality

From regular reviews and audits to program validations, OCQAS ensures that we are continually improving and meeting the stringent standards for education.



## Quality in Every Program

At Abc College, each program is meticulously assessed for quality - we're committed to providing nothing less than the best!



## Preparing for the Real World

So, when you graduate from Abc, you're not just earning a credential, you're earning a quality credential that meets the standards set by the province of Ontario!

## Working Groups Update

**Le SACQO Franco Working Group** has truly helped OCQAS learn about gaps and errors in the French versions of our documentation, program application tool, and training materials. Many corrections and language changes were made and thanks to Nathalie Plante from LACI, we were able to confidently release the French versions of the CQAAP videos released in the fall. See them on YouTube!

**The CVS Working Group** continues to keep us in the know about challenges with the tool and the resources in the submission of program validations. Most of the items that were discussed in this academic have helped OCQAS improve functionality in the tool. Also, both new one-page resources, one on VLOs and one on Titling Protocols were the result of an ask in this working group.

**The CQAAP Working Group** graciously and patiently brings questions to the meetings which always makes OCQAS think of ways to bring clarity to the CQAAP requirements. The discussions are always very fruitful! Some of the feedback received has influenced and been incorporated in the new OCQARE model. Some of the recommended changes related to the processes will be included in the documents upon their development.

**The Indigenous Thought Leaders Circle** has been key to introducing Indigenous ways of knowing and being into Quality Assurance.

## New to QA? Need a Refresher?

We will soon be hosting some virtual information sessions and workshops and would love for you to join us. Come learn about everything you want to know about the Credential Validation Service (CVS) and the College Quality Assurance Audit Process (CQAAP). Some sessions happen more than once, please check for dates and times that works best for you. The sessions are described according to the language in which they will be offered.

Note: if you have not submitted to CVS in a while, sign up for CVS Basics, part 2. It will bring you up to date on the tool and all the submission expectations.

See the table on the next page for session details.

### **HOW TO REGISTER:**

Please reserve your seat by emailing your name, college and session selections to CVS team, at [CVS@ocqas.org](mailto:CVS@ocqas.org), preferably 3 days prior to each session.

*Please share this invitation with anyone in the College that would benefit from participating in any of the sessions.*

| Date(s) and time  | Presentation/Workshop   |
|---|---|
| September 11<br>9-10 a.m.<br><br>September 12<br>12-1 p.m.                                      | <b>OCQAS Updates</b><br>This presentation is for those who are familiar with CVS and CQAAP, it will provide some updates on changes the CVS AA Tool and CQAAP Guidelines.   |
| Le 13 septembre<br>10h-11h  | <b>Mises à jour- SAQCO</b><br>Cette présentation s'adresse à ceux qui sont familiers avec le SVTC et le PAMAQC. Elle fournira des mises à jour sur les changements apportés à l'outil CVS AA et aux lignes directrices du PAMAQC.               |
| September 17<br>10-11 a.m.<br><br>September 24<br>2:30-3:30 p.m.<br><br>October 4<br>10-11 a.m. | <b>CVS Basics</b><br>This presentation will introduce CVS and where to start for program validations and modifications. This training is directed at new hires, and it is required for everyone who submits applications to CVS for validation. |
| October 8<br>2-3 p.m.<br><br>October 15<br>10-11 a.m.<br><br>October 23<br>12-1 p.m.            | <b>CVS Basics, part 2</b><br>This presentation will introduce the CVS AA Tool to participants. It is recommended that participants have completed CVS Basics or have viewed the <a href="#">Meet CVS Video</a> .                                |
| October 17<br>10:00-11:00 a.m.<br><br>October 19<br>3:00-4:00 p.m.                              | <b>Writing and Updating VLOs</b><br>This workshop will familiarize the participants with Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLOs), their structure, purpose and expectations for development and modification.                                       |
| October 9<br>9:30-10:30 a.m.  | <b>Intro to CQAAP</b><br>If you are either new to the QA world or would like to understand the institutional audit process including timelines and expectations a bit better, this session is for you.  |
| September 19<br>2-4 p.m.  | <b>CQAAP for Colleges undergoing an audit in 2024-2025</b><br>This presentation is to provide colleges undergoing audits in the upcoming academic year 2024-2025 with valuable information for the year ahead.                                  |
| Disponible sur demande  | Tous nos ateliers sont disponibles en français.   |

## Q&A with QA

We invite you to join our Thursday morning drop-in sessions to ask specific questions, meet others across the college sector involved in all things QA and engage in captivating discussions. We anticipate another great year for this drop-in session! They will run every Thursday morning at 9 am from September 12, 2024 - December 12, 2024.

### **How to get the Zoom link or an invitation?**

Please email us at [cvs@ocqas.org](mailto:cvs@ocqas.org).

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You are all caught up, have a great start to your year!

A blue ceramic mug filled with coffee sits on a surface next to a large, yellow autumn leaf and a spiral notebook. The scene is lit with warm, natural light, creating a cozy atmosphere.

*“The funny thing about quality is that it can always be improved.”*

- ANONYMOUS