



Ontario College Quality Assurance Service

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



CREDENTIAL VALIDATION SERVICE REPORT 2023/2024

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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 19 years, CVS has averaged 190 validations per year (which include both the Program Validations average (161) and Title Modifications average (29)). The total number of validations for 2023/2024 (171) is very close to the 19-year average. This academic year, the Title Modifications represented 11% of the CVS validation requests, which is lower than the 19 year average of 15%.

Credential Validation Summary by Process (September 2023-August 2024)

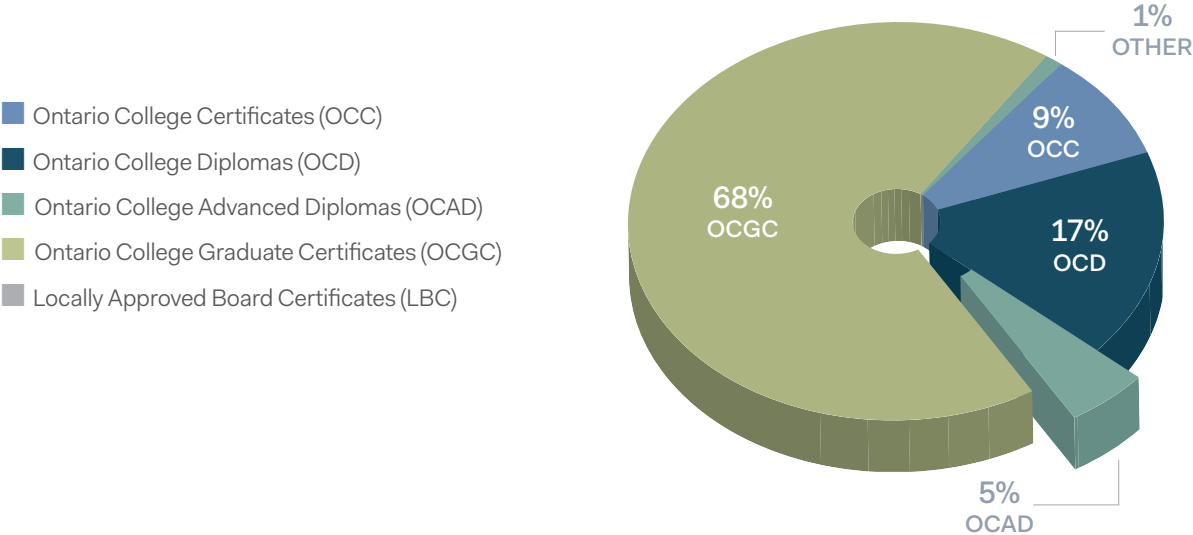
New Program Validations		Title Modifications	
19-year Average	2023/2024	19-year Average	2023/2024
161 (85%)	152 (89%)	29 (15%)	19 (11%)

Credential Validation Summary by Credential (September 2023-August 2024)

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 not the exception.

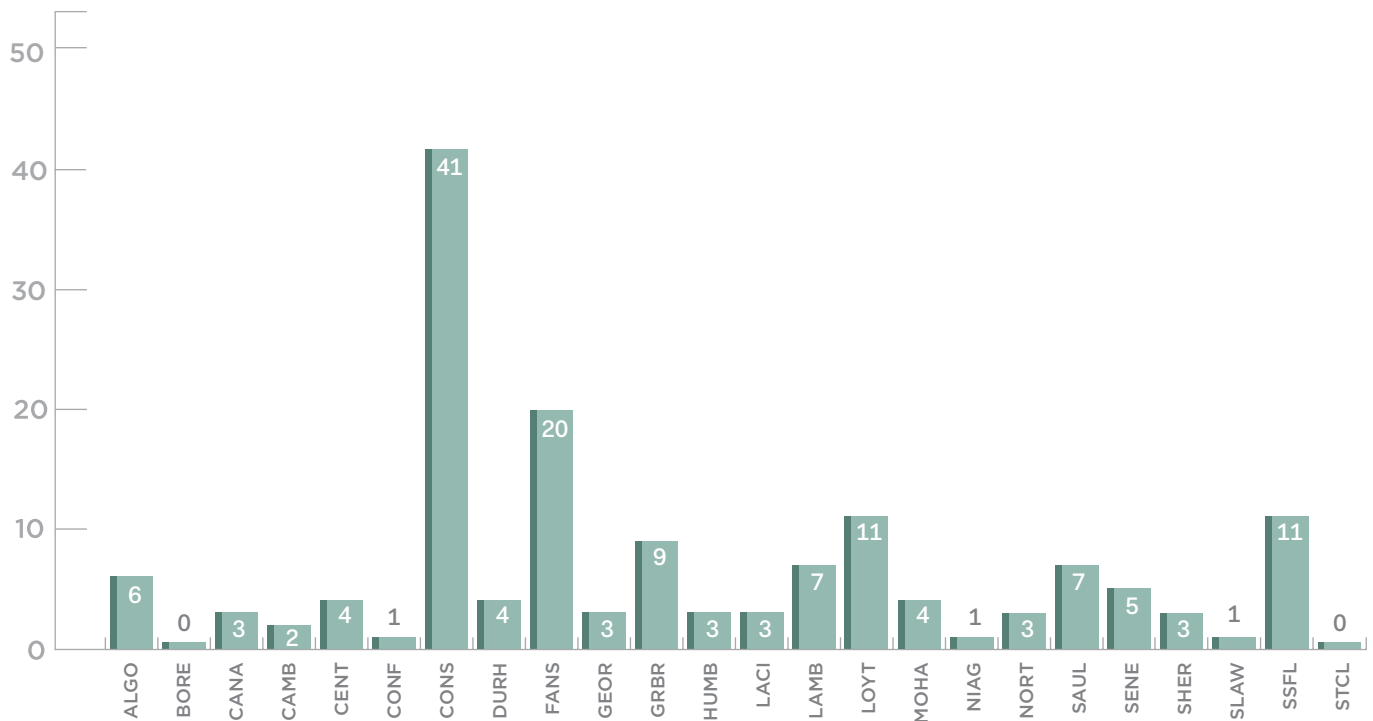
Credentials 2023-2024				
LBC	OCC	OCD	OCAD	OCGC
2	14	26	7	103

NEW PROGRAM VALIDATIONS BY CREDENTIAL – 2023/2024



Credential Validation Summary by College (September 2023 - August 2024)

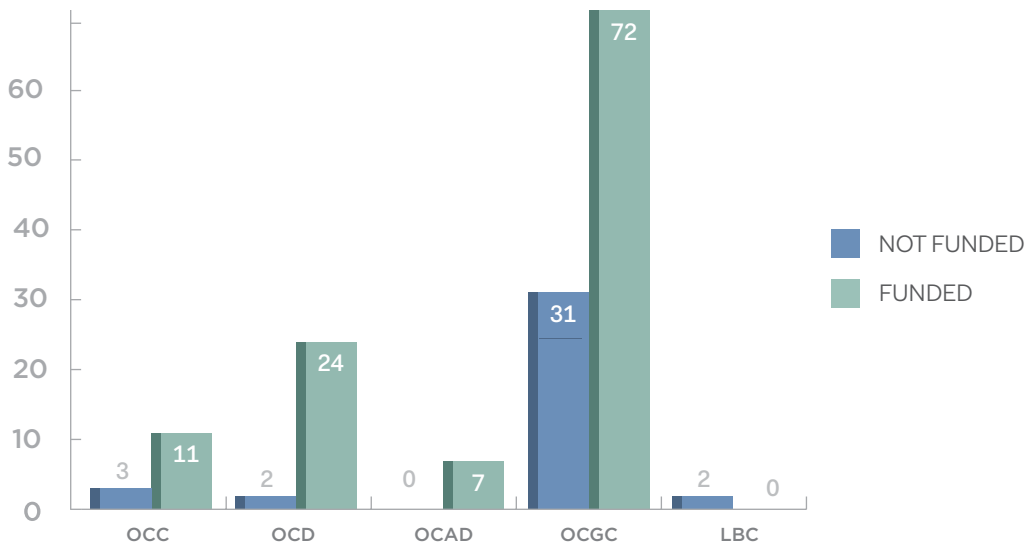
NEW PROGRAM PROPOSALS BY COLLEGE – 2023/2024



The number of programs submitted to CVS varies by college.

Credential Validation Summary by Funding Type (September 2023 - August 2024)

NEW PROGRAM PROPOSALS BY FUNDING TYPE – 2023/2024



In the second half of this year, we observed a significant reduction in the number of programs validated as full-cost recovery, largely due to the federal announcement regarding the cap on international students. Consequently, the proportion of programs requiring funding from the Ministry rose to 75%, marking an increase compared to the previous five years, while only 25% of the programs were validated for full-cost recovery.

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.

CVS has 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 Codes
- The Ontario Qualifications Framework (OQF)
- CVS Titling Protocols
- Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLOs)

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 need to submit via email for title modifications, program modifications, VLO updates and new program proposals. This template brought together previous CVS templates into one 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 of 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 modifications, VLO updates and Title Modifications	Program validated before 2018	●		●	● Only for title modification
	Program validated before 2018		●	●	● Only for title modification
	Program validated after May 2018	●			●
	Program validated after May 2018		●	● Required informal review prior to the CVS AA Tool Submission	●
New Programs	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 holds several conversations and meetings with Policy Managers and Project Officers to provide suggestions and feedback on emerging vocational learning outcomes and titles under consideration. In this academic year, CVS validated five (5) Program Standards in both English and French: Hairstyling (53400), Motive Power Technician (56405), Addictions and Mental Health (70902), Journalism (52006) and the Audio and Media Production (51904). The following thirteen (13) Program Standards were validated only in English: Manufacturing Engineering Cluster (57000, 67000), Automation & Instrumentation Cluster (51011, 61011), Human Resources Cluster (50223, 60223, 70223), Motive Power Fundamentals (46405), Mental Health Cluster (50733,7033), Journalism (62006), the Audio and Media Production cluster (51903, 61903)

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.

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

It is thanks to the hard work and dedication of the CVS AA Tool working group for their feedback and insights, the tool is more responsive to the needs of the 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. 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.

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:

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Bioinformatics
- Chronic Disease Management
- Cloud and Virtualization Technologies
- Community Collaboration in Addictions and Mental Health
- Creative Industries Management
- Customs and Trade
- Digital Forensics in Cybersecurity
- Early Childhood Education Resource Consulting
- Electric Light Rail Technician
- Emergency Management - Community Support and Preparedness
- Environment, Health and Safety Management
- Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Management Strategies
- Global Professional Practices
- Human-Centred Service Design
- Immigration and Refugee Case Management
- Indigenous Community Advocacy-Naamaadaagewin
- Indigenous Studies Foundations - Inuit, Metis, and First Nations
- Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
- Long Term Care and Retirement Community Management
- Low-Code and No-Code
- Quality Assurance - Functional Safety
- Registered Nurse-Prescribing
- Restorative Dental Hygiene
- Strategic Change Management, Leadership and Transformation
- Storytelling with Data
- Visual Development for Entertainment

A Word from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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.

CVS is dedicated to placing timely responses and constructive feedback at the heart of everything we do.

In our pursuit of continuous improvement, we continually seek ways to streamline our processes. We would like to extend our sincerest thank you to all the individuals who have participated in the working groups and supported this endeavor

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan C. [unclear]". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



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