



CENTRE FOR INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY ENHANCEMENT (CIQE)

Edits to Academic Calendar

To: Academic Council

From: Glenn Harvel, Associate Dean, CIQE

Re: UOIT Acronym and Gender-neutral Language

Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2019

In an effort to align our academic calendars with standard practices and with updates to the institution's Editorial Style Guide, the Centre for Institutional Quality Enhancement, the Office of the Registrar, and the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies are collaborating to edit the academic calendars. The focus of the project is to remove the use of the UOIT acronym and to include more gender-neutral language.

As a best practice, the university is now limiting the use of the UOIT acronym and incorporating the university, our university, or the full name in its place. The goal is to avoid confusion and remain accessible. Spelling out acronyms in first reference is standard practice; however, if a reader jumps into a website or publication past the first reference, it is challenging to decipher the meaning of the acronym, particularly for those not familiar with its use. Screen readers can also have difficulty deciphering acronyms and tend to read them out as a word, rather than each individual letter, which causes accessibility issues.

Using gender-neutral language has become standard practice in all forms of writing. The goal is to revise the academic calendars to ensure we are using inclusive language and avoiding gendered references.

Note that all future calendar copy will adhere to the guidelines noted above.

Example edits

With a letter of permission from a recognized institution, a student studying elsewhere may be allowed to enrol in ~~UOIT~~ **University of Ontario Institute of Technology** courses, subject to availability.

See ~~UOIT's~~ **the university's** policy on transferring from a thesis-based master's to a PhD program for additional information.

Any student who requests such a waiver is responsible to ensure that ~~he/she is~~ **they are** adequately prepared to proceed with the level of study required in the course.

Topics will be examined using a case-study approach and will include the following: the health effects of air and water pollution, food protection, injury prevention, housing and health hazards, effects of global warming and climate change on health, acute and chronic effects of natural and ~~manmade~~ **human-induced** disasters, and classification and management of environmental and occupational hazards.