

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 23 February 2021

FROM: Graduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Work Disability Prevention Graduate Diploma

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Terms of Reference, GSC has the responsibility “to examine proposals for new graduate degree and diploma programs, major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council”.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approve the Major Program Modification to the Work Disability Prevention Graduate Diploma, as presented.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing to add an Advanced Entry admissions pathway into this program from the existing BAHSc, BHSc specialization, and Kinesiology undergraduate programs offered by the Faculty.

The Graduate Diploma in Work Disability Prevention (WDP) is primarily designed for highly qualified individuals in established regulated health professions currently working in or wishing to work in the WDP field. Students seeking admission through this new Advanced Entry pathway are required to have successfully completed at least one of four cross-listed undergraduate courses to be considered for admission with advanced standing (HLSC 4670U, HLSC 4672U, HLSC 4674U, HLSC 4676U). Students from all areas of the Faculty may still apply through regular channels to the WDP Diploma; they are not required to take one of the four courses and apply for advanced standing.

Few applications occurred initially for the program and the GDip was suspended. This new pathway expands opportunities for BHASc graduates who come from physically demanding professions, and are often looking for administrative jobs in health disciplines. Likewise, many upper year BHSc and Kinesiology students don't consider until their fourth year alternate career

pathways. By having this advanced standing option, they can complete some of the WDP courses during their undergraduate degree and ensure that the pathway is the right one for them. The four core courses from the WDP are already cross-listed as BAHSc electives. By creating a formal pathway, it encourages BAHSc and BHSc graduates to consider the WDP diploma because it will take them a much shorter time to complete it.

This pathway creates the potential opportunity to attract a greater number of high-quality students into the WDP graduate program. Providing seamless transitions from our undergraduate programs enhances the multi-disciplinary nature of the graduate experience, as well as aligning with key elements of Ontario Tech's mission, vision and strategic plan, including a focus on health and safety.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

This change will require the faculty to commit to offering the WDP electives each year (except 2021-22, which will only require the first two electives to be offered) so that students have access to the required WDP courses.

TRANSITION PLAN:

Scheduling for Fall 2021 will include the available options.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

GSC: January 26th, 2021

Faculty Council: December 2nd, 2020

Curriculum Committee: November 17th, 2020

Much of the developmental work for this pathway was done in consultation with our partners from Georgian college through an ONCAT grant. At Ontario Tech, the Associate Deans of the Undergraduate and Graduate programs, the BAHSc program committee, and CIQE have all been consulted.

NEXT STEPS:

- Once approved by Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Major Program Modification Proposal](#)