



COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORT

SESSION:

Public
Non-Public

ACTION REQUESTED:

Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

TO: Academic Council

DATE: May 24, 2022

PRESENTED BY: Lori Livingston, Provost and Vice-President Academic

SUBJECT: 2021-22 Continuous Learning Annual Report

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

As part of the annual reporting process, Continuous Learning provides an annual report to Academic Council and the Board for information that provides a summary of the program offerings, enrolments in programs as well as major activities to expand professional development program offerings.

IMPLICATIONS:

This is an annual report that is reported to Academic Council and the Board for information.

ALIGNMENT WITH MISSION, VISION, VALUES & STRATEGIC PLAN:

Expanding program offerings and partnerships within Continuous Learning ensures continual development of opportunities to the community in flexible and accessible formats as well as providing alternative sources of revenue for the University. The programming and outreach are in keeping with all four strategic priorities in the Integrated Academic and Research Plan.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

2022 Continuous Learning Annual Report

Continuous Learning Annual Report 2021-2022

STRATEGY AND PLANNING

PREPARED BY: CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Background

Established in 2019, the Continuous Learning department is the central professional development unit of the university, providing relevant and innovative professional development opportunities to the community through pre-designed and custom courses, programs, and micro-credentials offered in three formats: in-person, online, and hybrid. Continuous Learning offers both independent courses (i.e. non-certificate programs) and certificate courses independently (i.e. can complete a certificate course without completing all courses for a certificate program). Our name reflects our belief that learning is an ongoing, lifelong process.

Since March 2020, the ongoing development of Continuous Learning has involved the expansion of online program delivery, including team training on virtual course delivery platforms (i.e. Google Meets, Zoom, etc.), Learning Management System and Catalog training; the testing of online course delivery systems, such as Kaltura; integrating new administrative processes and systems, including team training on payment gateways and related administrative processes; and the continued development of the department: expanding the awareness and visibility of Continuous Learning (internally and externally), research and exploration of partnerships, and department policy/regulation development.

2021-22 Activity

In late 2021, the Continuous Learning team moved into their new space in the lower level of Shawenjigewining Hall. This purpose-built space including classrooms is ideal for offering in-person and hybrid programs, whether they are open enrolment or customized programs.

From April 2021 to March 2022, Continuous Learning recorded 261 open enrolment program registrations with 206 program completions (certificates)—excluding workshops, custom programs, special events, Advanced Operations Overview for Managers (AOOM) courses, and CANDU Station System Design and Operation and Small Modular Reactor Design Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) courses.

Micro-credentials

Beginning in spring 2021, Continuous Learning staff worked closely with faculty members and others across the university on the development of their eCampus Virtual Learning Strategy funded micro-credentials. These micro-credentials will be offered through Continuous Learning beginning in the summer/fall of 2022. In spring of 2022, eCampus Ontario provided a second round of grant funding to faculty and others at the university for the development in 2022-2023 of several new micro-credentials. In addition, the university has provided grants to several faculty members to develop new micro-credentials to be offered through Continuous Learning. Finally, the Ontario Government has provided grants through its Micro-Credential Challenge Fund, to university faculty members who are working with local industry and employers to develop new or to expand existing micro-credentials. As a result of all of these initiatives, Continuous Learning will significantly expand its micro-credential offerings.

As Continuous Learning enters the 2022-2023 academic year, the department continues to work closely with the Office of Learning Innovation to support Ontario Tech's Micro-Credentials and Badge programs to recognize skills from a variety of experiences, and to explore further micro-credential development under the Continuous Learning portfolio. In support of the university's commitment to life-long learning, Continuous Learning continues to host the TD Ready micro-credentials and is set to deliver 1,000 free micro-credentials, across 24 topics of interest, to those in our community who are mid-career, under-employed, or who are currently or likely to face changes in the workplace. Continuous Learning is investigating the potential of joining a postsecondary learning consortium with other postsecondary institutions across Canada to purchase seats in programs where Ontario Tech may not have the minimum number of participants required to generate a full cohort. This option allows the university to purchase the number of seats for which it has registrants until it has enough students to create its own cohort.

Camps

In summer 2021, Summer Camps were offered fully online. The virtual format attracted 1,514 registrations from across Ontario and ran for eight consecutive weeks—from July to August. Camps ran for two hours per weekday and provided fun, hands-on opportunities for children ages six to seventeen to learn and explore their curiosity in a positive, safe environment. A total of 43 virtual camps ran over the course of the summer, with 32 unique camp offerings. Virtual camps were science, technology, engineering, coding, gaming and design focused. Coding and gaming camps proved to be our most popular offerings. In summer of 2022, we will have a mix of in-person and online camps with the majority of camps being held in person on campus.

In 2021, Continuous Learning offered Virtual Spring Break Camps which ran from April 12 to 16, 2021. The pilot program included two Minecraft-themed camps which filled to capacity with 60 registrations. Each camp ran for two hours per weekday and was geared toward children aged 7 to 14.

In 2022, Virtual Spring Break Camps were offered again from March 14 to March 18, 2022 for two hours per weekday, the expanded camps program, offered five camp options and attracted 107 registrations. Camps were geared toward children aged 6 to 13 and provided an interactive and fun learning experience in an inclusive and positive environment. Camp themes included Minecraft, coding, gaming, and engineering.

COVID-19 ongoing response

In alignment with the university's COVID-19 response, in-person programming is resuming with hybrid and online courses being offered as well. Where programming is offered virtually, a computer application, either Canvas or Google Classroom, is used to provide course content and allows registrants to complete activities and submit assignments. Discussion posts, email, group work, and virtual tutorials substitute in-person participant interaction.

A listing of all Continuous Learning opportunities offered and new this year is provided in Appendix A.

APPENDIX A: Continuing Education

Summary of Continuous Learning activities for April 2021 to March 2022. Only activities that grant an official certificate or letter of completion have been included below. ★ = new this year

Faculty or Non-academic Unit	Brief Description of Offering	Number of Hours or Length of Offering	Number of registrants* *	Number of certificates awarded
Continuous Learning	University Preparatory Program: A specialized certificate program designed to prepare high school graduates for the academic demands of university consisting three (3) pillars: numeracy, literacy and academic success, and a supportive coaching component.	3 months (1 Semester)	31	25
Continuous Learning	Professional Management: A certificate program consisting of five (5) courses designed to enhance the managerial effectiveness and leadership abilities of today's business professionals.	30 hours	40	12
Continuous Learning	Not-for-Profit Leadership: A certificate program consisting of five (5) courses designed to meet the unique challenges faced by managers in the Not-for-Profit sector.	30 hours	30	18
Continuous Learning	★ Digital Management: A re-designed social media program. This three (3) course program is designed for those who need take action	18 hours	8	N/A

Faculty or Non-academic Unit	Brief Description of Offering	Number of Hours or Length of Offering	Number of registrants* *	Number of certificates awarded
	and launch a Social Media strategy they can implement right away so that they can obtain a successful return on investment for their organization.			
Continuous Learning	Master's Certificate in Public Sector Management: A certificate program consisting of fifteen (15) courses that requires application and approved admission designed for managers and executives with diverse educational backgrounds who are experienced in a public sector/government or related organization.	90 hours	32	31
Continuous Learning	LEAN Green Belt: A certificate program offered in partnership with Leading Edge Group focused on the lean management approach.		15	15
Custom Courses/Programs				
Continuous Learning	CANDU Station System Design and Operation – Custom courses for Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC): Nuclear Power Plant Operations Training for Regulators.	8 x 1-week courses; Each 1-week course contains 35 learning hours; 280 hours total for all 8 courses; Maximum of two (2)	21 in 2021 19 in 2022	133 certificates for modules issued in 2021; 48 certificates issued between January 2022 and end of

Faculty or Non-academic Unit	Brief Description of Offering	Number of Hours or Length of Offering	Number of registrants* *	Number of certificates awarded
		cohorts per year. Only 1 cohort registered in 2021 and 1 cohort registered in 2022; Participants take up to 8 modules.		March, 2022; <i>Note: April 2022 cohort not yet reported.</i>
Continuous Learning	★ Custom course for Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC): Small Modular Reactor Design.	Standalone 1-week course consisting of 35 learning hours; Inaugural delivery this year (2022) from February 28 th – March 4 th .	25	25 certificates issued between January 2022 and end of March, 2022.
Continuous Learning	Certificate in Leadership and Management Essentials – Custom program for Central East Local Health Integration Network (CE LHIN) (Peterborough Regional Health and Northumberland Hills Hospital/Ontario Shores): A custom certificate program consisting of five (5) courses designed to develop strategies and insight related to change management specific to healthcare-based organizations.	30 hours	16	16

Faculty or Non-academic Unit	Brief Description of Offering	Number of Hours or Length of Offering	Number of registrants* *	Number of certificates awarded
Continuous Learning	<p>Certificate in Leadership Excellence – Custom program for Durham Region: A custom certificate program consisting of eight (8) leadership excellence courses aligned with Durham Region’s core values. Graduates move on to take the Master’s Certificate in Public Sector Management program.</p>	72 hours; one (1) to two (2) cohorts per year	22	18
Continuous Learning	<p>Certificate in Police Leadership – Custom program for Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS): A certificate program designed to develop leadership strategies aligned with DRPS core competencies. The program consists of three (3) modules, each with four (4) weeks of online content and one (1) half-day, in-class workshop. NOTE: This program will also be offered to Cobourg Police Services beginning in spring 2022.</p>	Three (3) months; 2 cohorts	37	37
Continuous Learning	<p>Certificate in Paramedic Leadership – Custom program for Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS) Pilot Program – A certificate program designed to develop leadership skills for individuals who are already working within the paramedic field or those looking to enter the paramedic field. This program and its modules build</p>	1 cohort; Three (3) months in length with three (3) online virtual courses.	10	9

Faculty or Non-academic Unit	Brief Description of Offering	Number of Hours or Length of Offering	Number of registrants* *	Number of certificates awarded
	upon existing abilities and experiences and supports the application of these skills to workplace situations.			
Continuous Learning	<p>Advanced Operations Overview for Managers (AOOM) – Custom Program for Ontario Power Generation (OPG): Development and delivery of training to operational managers in the nuclear industry.</p>	<p>93 days total; 74 days (approx. 5 months) of 6 hours lecture time; 19 days for self-study, and field tours. Approximately 450 lecture hours total; Additional guided and self-guided field tours and self-study days not counted towards total lecture hours.</p>	<p>5 in 2021 9 in 2022</p>	<p>5 in 2021. <i>Note: Concludes June 2022.</i></p>
Continuous Learning	<p>Organizational Development & Performance Improvement– Custom program for OPG: Under a five (5) year agreement (2018-2023), course offerings may run multiple times each quarter (based on OPG scheduling).</p>	Two (2) course offerings	N/A	N/A
Continuous Learning	<p>Stakeholder and Change Management – Custom program for OPG: Under a five (5) year agreement (2018-</p>	Four (4) course offerings	N/A	N/A

Faculty or Non-academic Unit	Brief Description of Offering	Number of Hours or Length of Offering	Number of registrants* *	Number of certificates awarded
	2023), course offerings may run multiple times each quarter (based on OPG scheduling).			
Continuous Learning	★ Python & Power of BI – Custom program for OPG: A certificate program designed to provide the basic commands of Python to enable the participants to integrate Python with Power BI and leverage the power of data analytics and visualization in both for maximum data understanding and decision making.	18 Hours; 3 consecutive days.	25	25
Continuous Learning	AQ/ABQ Program: AQ custom courses deepen the knowledge/skills needed to design, deliver, and assess programs in a specific discipline, field and/or division. Offered in one (1) to three (3) sessions, courses expand to offer a specific focus on leadership skills within the discipline or division. ABQ custom courses qualify Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) members to teach in specific divisions in addition to current division qualifications. At Intermediate and Senior levels, qualification is based on specific subjects: Math, Science, English, Philosophy and Social Sciences. AQ/AQB courses are available to OTC members only.	125 hours; twenty-seven (27) course offerings	81	81 <i>Note: Certificate recorded by OCT.</i>

Faculty or Non-academic Unit	Brief Description of Offering	Number of Hours or Length of Offering	Number of registrants* *	Number of certificates awarded
Continuous Learning	Math and Coding – Elementary: A custom professional development course designed to help in-service elementary educators prepare and grow within the new math curriculum.	16 hours; two (2) course offerings	10	10
Continuous Learning	Charles H. Best Type 2 Diabetes Educator Program 10 asynchronous modules	Self-paced	24	24

**Some Continuous Learning certificate programs allow individuals to sign-up for courses individually without completing the full certificate program. The number of registrants refers to the number of individuals who registered for any course(s) offered as part of this program. All certificates were counted once, regardless of the number of individual course registrations in the certificate program they registered for. An “N/A” in this appendix means that individual courses in this certificate program were custom programs, not open to the general public for registration.