

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

SESSION:

Public

ACTION REQUESTED:

Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

TO: Academic Council

DATE: September 27, 2022

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

SUBJECT: Digital Learning Resources Directive Amendment

ACADEMIC COUNCIL MANDATE:

- Under the Policy Framework, Undergraduate Studies Committee and Graduate Studies Committee are the Approval Authority for Academic procedures and directives.
- Given that the Directive affects both Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, present the Digital Learning Resources Directive for consultation with Academic Council for a university-wide perspective.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

- The Tuition Fee Framework and Ancillary Fee Guidelines for Publicly Assisted Universities released by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities (MTCU) sets out requirements including the development of an institutional policy with regard to Digital Learning Resources. The University approved a Digital Learning Resources Directive on June 25, 2019.
- The Policy Framework establishes a three-year review window for policy instruments. We present an amended Directive for your review and comment.

CONSULTATION:

- Academic Council (September 27, 2022)
- Online Consultation (September 19 to 30, 2022)
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (October)
- Graduate Studies (October)

NEXT STEPS:

- Consultation steps as noted above.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- Digital Learning Resources Directive



Classification Number	1599.07
Parent Policy	Academic Staff Responsibilities with Regard to Students
Framework Category	Academic
Approving Authority	Academic Council
Policy Owner	Provost Provost and Vice-President,
Approval Date	DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION
Review Date	June 2022
Last Updated	Editorial Amendments, February 18, 2020
Supersedes	

DIRECTIVES ON THE USE OF DIGITAL LEARNING RESOURCES FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES

PURPOSE

1. To provide direction on the use of those digital learning resources (DLR) for which there is a charge, in accordance with the *Ministry Tuition Fee Framework and Ancillary Fee Guidelines for Publicly-Assisted Universities*.

DEFINITIONS

2. For the purposes of these Procedures the following definitions apply:
“Digital learning resource (DLR)” means materials (e.g., online applications) as well as associated devices (e.g., clickers) that would aid or facilitate instruction, learning, and assessment.
“Ministry” means the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

3. These Directives apply to the use of DLRs for assessment purposes in credit courses and programs at the university.
4. Digital Resources approved through the ancillary fee process are exempt from these Directives.
5. The Provost, or successor thereof, is responsible for overseeing the implementation, administration and interpretation of these Directives.

DIRECTIVES

6. ~~Under certain conditions, The the~~ Ministry permits, ~~under certain conditions,~~ the universities to ask students to purchase digital learning materials/resources. DLRs can include access to online learning resources or databases. Digital test/assessment tools can include simulation tools, online quizzes and online exercises.

Note: In establishing these Directives, the University acknowledges that it is the

responsibility of instructors to determine what resources are most appropriate in supporting students' learning.

7. USAGE

- 7.1. In all cases, instructors are strongly encouraged to consider the affordability of the resource(s) for students. Instructors should first reach out to the University's Teaching and Learning Centre to discuss DLR alternatives and seek cost-effective measures already provided at the institution prior to determining if they may need to ask students to purchase a DLR for assessment purposes.
- 7.2. When such DLRs are not appropriate, the instructor may ask students to purchase DLR alternatives provided the **following conditions are fulfilled**:
- a) Instructors may require students to purchase physical and/or digital textbooks that have bundled software or online access to additional learning resources, provided students have options to purchase the bundled components separately (students shall not be required to purchase e-textbooks to obtain the assessment component of the materials).
 - b) When selecting a DLR, instructors should ensure that the resource meets the requirements and guidelines of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). For guidance or help on whether a DLR is compliant, contact the Teaching and Learning Center.
 - c) Instructors may assign up to a maximum of 20% of their students' overall grade in a course to assessment activities purchased as DLRs.
 - ~~e~~d) In exceptional circumstances the Dean can may approve written requests for the use of these resources for mandatory assessments that have a higher value.
 - ~~d~~e) Where an exception is made to the maximum assessment amount the instructor must provide a no-fee alternative to assessment activities upon request. ~~(t~~This may include re-weighting of other assessment components).
 - ~~e~~f) The maximum cost permitted per one term course for purchased DLRs will be \$100 (before taxes). Instructors may request an exception to the maximum amount with the Dean. Such a request must be made and approved in writing.
 - ~~f~~g) A general bursary is available through financial aid to assist students in need.
 - ~~g~~h) Instructors will communicate details concerning the use of DLRs clearly in their course syllabus. These outlines are submitted to the dean's-Dean's office. Course syllabi will indicate, where relevant:

- The DLRs (required or optional), including test/assessment tools;
- The weight of the total course grade associated with the use of the test/assessment tools;
- The details on how to obtain such material, and;
- The details on the no-fee alternative (if applicable).

8. Deans must report their faculty's use of DLRs, or declare no use of DLRs, to the ancillary fee committee Office of the Provost annually for the current fall term and upcoming winter term by November 1st. The report must include the following: course code, term, cost, digital learning resource name, and assessment weight. The purpose of this reporting is to gather data that will help the University to review and revise this policy as necessary.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

9. These Directives will be reviewed at least every three years unless the Ministry's *Tuition Fee Framework and Ancillary Fee Guidelines* is reviewed and updated before then. The Provost, or successor thereof, is responsible to monitor and review these Directives.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

10. Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities, *Tuition Fee Framework and Ancillary Fee Guidelines for Publicly Assisted Universities*.

RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES & DOCUMENTS

11. Academic Staff Responsibilities with Regard to Students (ADM 1599.02)