


MEMO

DATE: April 2, 2024

TO: Deans, Chairs, Program Coordinators

FROM: Chris Janzen, Acting Senior Vice President,
Academic 

SUBJECT: Change to Program Curriculum Leadership beginning in Fall 2024

Dear Colleagues,

As the R3 Project progresses, it is providing us the opportunity to change some of our business practices. Starting in Fall 2024 with the Annual Curriculum Review (ACR) activity, Algonquin College will adopt a Program Curriculum Lead and Partner Framework to manage multi-delivery program offerings.

Historically, the academic departments have had to manage curriculum at the 'program offering' level, requiring significant duplicate effort to maintain alignment of curriculum across program offerings. This will no longer be the case with Thesis. In Thesis, each program and course will only have one 'academic lead'. This necessitates changes to our business practices moving forward.

As each program and course will only have one lead, for any programs that have an additional offering through another campus or partner, those additional deliveries will be considered partner offerings with limited functionality to manage curriculum in Thesis and related systems. This only impacts the 43 programs that are offered on at least 2 campuses or with a partner organization.

Despite this change to our system and business practices, what is not changing is the required collaboration to support each other and our partners in ensuring a quality learning experience for our students. Leads are responsible for ensuring strong communication, collaboration and sharing. Each offering will continue to be responsible

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for managing the delivery of that offering, including ensuring appropriate staffing are in place.

A list of program leads and partners has been confirmed and impacted Deans and Chairs have been notified. Academic Development will manage the implementation of the Program Curriculum Lead and Partner Framework in advance of the ACR cycle beginning in Fall 2024. As this is implemented, we will look to strengthen and clarify any issues as they come up, including updating policies, if necessary.

This change aligns with the Academic Plan in supporting flexibility in course selection, scheduling and delivery modality, as well as access to cross-College courses. Most importantly, this is a positive change for our learners. They will no longer need to seek exemptions for courses that they have already taken but that have different course codes and course outlines, nor experience different programs of study because of their campus choice. This change is long overdue, and I am pleased to see the R3 Project continue to provide opportunities to improve the experiences of our learners.

Best regards,

Chris Janzen