

Undergraduate Credential Framework at the University of Regina

Preamble

This proposal has been prepared by James D'Arcy, Registrar with input from:

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- The Associate Deans Academic Group
- Glenys Sylvestre, Executive Director, University Governance and University Secretary
- Deans Council
- Associate Registrars, Susan Husum and Barbara Elich
- The Council Committee on Undergraduate Admission and Studies
- The Micro-credentials Working Group
- The Council Committee on Academic Mission

Background

The University of Regina Act (the "Act") provides authority to the University of Regina to award degrees and certificates. Unlike other provincial structures that have quality control bodies, like Alberta and Ontario, the responsibility for the quality assurance that governs the academic content, credit hour requirements, minimum performance standards, and other specific regulations that contribute to the award of a credential is within the purview of the University of Regina Senate, in accordance with the Act.

At a provincial level, quality assurance boards can have additional responsibilities that include, but are not limited to:

- developing, maintaining, and enforcing accreditation standards;
- ensuring academic programming is reflective of current needs and trends;
- developing standardized credit hour requirements in the award of credentials and;
- ensuring duplication of program delivery is minimized either provincially or regionally within a province.

Because part of this discussion will include a pan-Canadian scan of current practice from a provincial and national perspective, it is important for the U of R to be proactive in our approach so that we are aligned with our pan-Canadian colleagues.

The research that informs this proposal comes from the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC), the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance (OUCQA), and a scan of other comprehensive academic and research intensive universities in Canada.

Introduction

The need for a credential framework at the University of Regina has been identified as a quality assurance measure that will guide the development of new academic programs and align the university with a more common understanding of the academic rigor required to complete and be awarded a credential. It provides reassurance to academic

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colleagues, licensure organizations, qualification agencies, and employers that they can be confident a credential has been awarded with common and consistent standards that are broadly recognized.

Additionally, as new opportunities arise for the University, defining *micro-credentials* is essential to university strategy to accommodate industry trends and needs, the needs of new Canadians who need a specific set of courses in addition to the educational credentials they possess, and for employers who want to upgrade the knowledge and skill sets of their employees.

This proposal will present a framework that will:

- establish specific credit hour requirements and provide consistency in the credit hour requirements for credentialing;
- create academic standards for credentialing that can be interpreted widely without misinterpretation by both internal and external audiences;
- provide guidelines so that faculties have opportunities to establish credentials that align with new and contemporary trends;
- establish definitions that are consistent within the pan-Canadian landscape; and
- provide information that can be used by applicants to the University to make informed decisions about program enrolment and program opportunities.

While this proposal primarily focuses on Undergraduate credentials, the Registrar will be working the Faculty of Graduate Studies to develop a similar framework at the Graduate level.

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Definitions

Collaborative Program. Refers to a formalized collaboration between the University of Regina and a partner institution to offer a degree program or a combined degree program. In this model, both institutions have general responsibilities in the development and the delivery of curriculum. It generally results in a U of R credential with recognition of the collaboration on the parchment issued. “In collaboration with XXXXX”. This is also known as a Joint Program.

Combined Degree Program. Normally offered by two institutions under formal agreement leading to the outcome of two credentials, one from the U of R and one from the other institution.

Concentration. A focus within a program, usually within a major, comprising a cluster of courses on a particular theme or topic – or – a disciplinary component of a multidisciplinary degree program. A major in Biology with a concentration in Micro-Biology for example.

Concurrent Enrolment. Refers to the process of admission to two programs at the same time.

Conjoint Program. Refers to a program involving two or more faculties in cooperation to offer a dual degree program.

Credential. Refers to a degree, diploma, or certificate.

Dual Degree. Refers to a conjoint program that provides the outcome of two different degrees. This can be internal (conjoint) or external (combined).

Joint Program. See Collaborative Program.

Major. Refers to the primary area of specialization in a degree program.

Micro-Credential. Refers to a series of courses in a specific subject area that normally provide opportunities for academic or professional development.

Minor. Refers to a secondary area(s) of specialization in a subject area outside of a major.

Residency. Residency refers to the minimum number of University of Regina credit hours that a student must complete within their credential completion requirements

Specialization. Refers to a focussed area of study attached to a specific major, with specific coursework that is required beyond major requirements. Specialization are not normally offered at the undergraduate level unless they are attached to an honors program.

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Framework at a glance:

The undergraduate framework is presented here in short format. Please see the specific template on each for further information.

Credential Category	Level	Cr Hrs	Parchment Nomenclature	Paper	Digital	Major	Minor	Specialization	Distinction /Great Distinction	Honours/High Honours	Year of Study Equivalency
Microcredential (Credit)	Undergraduate	>3 and <15	Microcredential in	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N/A
Certificate	Undergraduate	15 to 30	Certificate in	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	1/2 to 1 year
Diploma	Undergraduate	60	Diploma in	Y	Y	Y	Not normally	N	N	N	2 years
Baccalaureate (Special)	Undergraduate	90	Bachelor of	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	3 years
Baccalaureate	Undergraduate	120+	Bachelor of	Y	Y	Y	Y	Hons only	Y	Hons only	4 years
Baccalaureate (After Degree)	Undergraduate	60+	Bachelor of	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	2 years
Post Baccalaureate Certificate	Undergraduate	Minimum 15	Post Baccalaureate Certificate in	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	1/2 year
Post Baccalaureate Diploma	Undergraduate	Minimum 30	Post Baccalaureate Diploma	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	1 year
Conjoint/Double Degree	Undergraduate	Minimum 150	Bachelor of	Y – 1 for each	Y – 1 for each	Y	Y	N	Y	N	5 to 6 years
Collaborative/Joint Degree	Undergraduate	120	Bachelor of	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	4 years

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Credential Category	Credit Hour Requirement	Parchment Nomenclature	Major Eligibility
Credit Micro-Credential	3 or more credit hours but less than 15 credit hours	n/a	n/a
Minor Eligibility	Specialization Eligibility	Concentration Eligibility	Distinction/Great Distinction
n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Designation Eligibility		Course Level	Year of Study Equivalency
Transcript notation: Credit Micro Credential in XXXXX No other notations apply.		Undergraduate - Credit	n/a
Definition	<p>A credit micro-credential is a concentrated set of courses, or a bundle of for credit modules, in a specific subject area or specialized topic. Credit micro-credentials are normally developed to provide academic opportunities for individuals to achieve or enhance specific skills, competencies, and/or knowledge.</p> <p>A credit micro-credential may be taken as a standalone endeavor, or concurrently with a certificate, diploma, or degree program.</p> <p>Note: A digital micro-credential may be issued via the ARUCC National Network (MyCreds.ca) on the completion of the specific micro-credential requirements.</p>		
Major, Minor, Concentration, and Specialization Regulations	Majors, minors, concentrations, and specializations are not available in a micro-credential program.		
Admission Requirements	Faculties have the right to establish admission requirements that reflect their target audience.		

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Credential Category	Credit Hour Requirement	Parchment Nomenclature	Major Eligibility
Undergraduate Certificate	15 to 30 credit hours	"Certificate in"	No
Minor Eligibility	Specialization Eligibility	Concentration Eligibility	Distinction/Great Distinction
No	No	No	No
Designation Eligibility		Course Level	Year of Study Equivalency
Transcript notation: Certificate in XXXXXX No other notations apply.		Undergraduate - Credit	Up to 1 year
Definition	<p>An undergraduate certificate is a program of studies that recognizes the completion of a series of courses. They generally include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interdisciplinary course completion requirements in a thematic area of interest but not confined to a single disciplinary area; or • completion requirements that are confined to a specific area of study that form that form a distinctive complement to studies in an undergraduate discipline; or • provide acknowledgement of proficiency in a given area of study; or • build specific skills or competencies related to a profession for the purposes of employment and/or, recognition by an external professional organization; or • facilitate an interest in gaining an insightful understanding of a specific area of study. <p>Certificate programs should normally facilitate laddering of the course requirements with full transferability to a U of R diploma (when available) or a U of R baccalaureate program in the specific area of study, and/or to a major in that specific area of study.</p> <p>There are no minors or majors in a certificate program.</p>		
Major, Minor, Concentration, and Specialization Regulations	Majors, minors, concentrations, and specializations are not available in a certificate program.		
Admission Requirements	Applicants follow the general admission requirements of the University and the Faculty.		

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Credential Category	Credit Hour Requirement	Parchment Nomenclature	Major Eligibility
Undergraduate Diploma	60	"Diploma in"	30 credit hours must be completed in the major area of study.
Minor Eligibility	Specialization Eligibility	Concentration Eligibility	Distinction/Great Distinction
Not normally	No	No	No
Designation Eligibility		Course Level	Year of Study Equivalency
Transcript Notation: Diploma in XXXXXX No other notations apply.		Undergraduate	2 years
Definition	<p>An undergraduate diploma is a program of studies that recognizes the completion of a series of courses that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a strong emphasis in a specific area of study. • Have an interdisciplinary component that provides exposure to disciplines outside of the specific area of study. • May contain a 30 credit hour requirement in a specific subject area to qualify a major (Diploma in Business Administration with a Major in Marketing for example). <p>A diploma program should facilitate laddering of the course requirements with full transferability to a U of R baccalaureate program in the specific area of study and/or to a major in that specific area of study.</p> <p>A diploma may have a major but does not have minors.</p>		
Major, Minor, Concentration, and Specialization Regulations	<p>Major A diploma program may have a major on the completion of 30 credit hours in the subject area of the major.</p> <p>Minors, concentrations, and specializations are not normally available in a diploma program.</p>		
Admission Requirements	Applicants follow the general admission regulations of the university and the Faculty.		

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Level: Undergraduate

Credential Category	Credit Hour Requirement	Parchment Nomenclature	Major Eligibility
Baccalaureate Degree – including Honours.	120 (minimum) *see note 1	“Bachelor of”	Normally, a minimum of 30 credit hours are completed in the major area of study *See note 2
Minor Eligibility	Specialization Eligibility	Concentration Eligibility	Distinction/Great Distinction
18 credit hours must be completed in the minor area of study	Yes for honours programs.	Yes.	Yes
Designation Eligibility	Course Level		Year of Study Equivalency
Transcript Notation: Bachelor of XXXXXX or Bachelor of XXXX (Honours) (High Honours) Other notations if eligible include: International, Co-operative Education, Internship, Bilingual mention/mention bilingue, Distinction, Great Distinction, Major in XXXXXX, Major in XXXXX with a Concentration in XXXXXX, Double Major in XXXXXX and XXXXXX, Minor in XXXXXX, Double Minor in XXXXXX and XXXXXX.	Undergraduate		4 years
Definition	<p>A baccalaureate degree is the recognition given for the completion of a series of courses that are mostly within a specific area of study. The program normally includes interdisciplinary subject areas outside of the specific area of study in addition to the completion of courses in a specific area of study. A baccalaureate program will normally include exposure to one or more courses in the following subject areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Studies • Science • Math • Statistical and/or Research Analysis • Writing • Philosophy and/or Critical Thinking • Languages • Humanities and Social Sciences <p>Exposure to other subject areas when credit hour completion requirements permit, are encouraged. A baccalaureate program will sometimes be attached to accreditation or licensure requirements which limit the exposure to interdisciplinary subjects.</p> <p>Honours programs will have more rigorous course completion and performance standards than what is found in the regular program.</p>		

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Major, Minor, Concentration, and Specialization Regulations

The Application of Credit Hours to a Major/Minor

A minimum of 50% of the credit hours used in the award of a major or a minor must be unique to that major or minor. Core program and elective requirements may be used to fulfill a major or minor requirement.

Major Completion Requirements

A major within a baccalaureate program would normally require the completion of a minimum of 30 credits within the specified major area.

Major with a Concentration

A major with a concentration requires to the completion of 30 credits within the specified major area and the completion of a minimum of 9 credits (within that 30 credits) in the area of concentration.

Major with a Specialization

A major with a specialization (normally available in Honors programs only) requires the completion of a minimum of 30 credits within the specified major area and an additional 9 credits of course work in that major area. The additional 9 credits may include 400 level coursework, a thesis requirement, a special project requirement, or a research requirement.

Double Major Completion Requirements

A double major can be specified provided the requirements include the completion of a minimum of an additional 30 credit hours within the specified double major subject area that are over and above the normal 120 credit hour completion requirements (150 credit hours in total).

Combined Major Completion Requirements

A combined major can be structured in a way to fit within the 120 credit hour completion requirements provided that there are a minimum of 45 credit hour completion requirements outside of the combined major subject areas

Minor Completion Requirements

A minor within a baccalaureate program requires the completion of a minimum of 12 credit hours within the minor subject area. More than one minor may be completed where faculty regulations permit but courses that have been applied in the award of one minor may not be applied to the other.

Combinations of Majors with Minors

Available when faculty regulations permit.

Note 1: Some 90 credit baccalaureate programs exist in the Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance that may be awarded or on the completion of a combined B. Ed. program. These programs may be taken concurrently or after the completion of the B.Ed. program.

Note 2: Some faculties may have major requirements of less than 30 credits. In these cases, the minimum number of credit hours cannot be less than 15.

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Admission Requirements	Applicants follow the general admission requirements of the University and the Faculty.
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Credential Category	Credit Hour Requirement	Parchment Nomenclature	Major Eligibility
After Degree Baccalaureate	60 credit hours	"Bachelors of"	Yes
Minor Eligibility	Specialization Eligibility	Concentration Eligibility	Distinction/Great Distinction
Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Designation Eligibility		Course Level	Year of Study Equivalency
Transcript Notation: Bachelor of XXXXXX Other notations if eligible, include: International, Co-operative Education, Internship, Bilingual mention/mention bilingue, Distinction, Great Distinction, Major in XXXXXX, Major in XXXXX with a Concentration in XXXXXX, Minor in XXXXXX.		Undergraduate	2 years
Definition	<p>An after degree is a credential that is made available to individual's who have completed a baccalaureate program and would like to expand their knowledge to a different specific area of study. While most after degree programs are designed to meet professional licensure or professional recognition requirements, they can also be designed to facilitate the upgrading of knowledge in a specific area of study or to upgrade knowledge in a Canadian context.</p> <p>An after degree program may contain majors and minors and follow the same completion requirements for these designations as does the completion of a baccalaureate program.</p>		
Major, Minor, Concentration, and Specialization Regulations	<p>The Application of Credit Hours to a Major/Minor A minimum of 50% of the credit hours used in the award of a major or a minor must be unique to that major or minor. Core program and elective requirements may be used to fulfill a major or minor requirement.</p> <p>Major Completion Requirements A major within an after degree program requires the completion of a minimum of 30 credits within the specified major area.</p> <p>Major with a Concentration A major with a concentration requires to the completion of a minimum of 30 credits within the specified major area and the completion of a minimum of 9 credits (within that 30 credits) in the area of concentration.</p> <p>Major with a Specialization A major with a specialization is not normally available in an after degree program.</p> <p>Double Major Completion Requirements</p>		

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	<p>A double major is not available in an after degree program.</p> <p>Combined Major Completion Requirements A combined major is not normally available in an after degree program.</p> <p>Minor Completion Requirements A minor within an after degree program requires the completion of a minimum of 12 credit hours within the minor subject area. More than one minor is not normally available in an after degree program.</p> <p>Combinations of Majors with Minors Available when faculty regulations permit.</p>
Admission Requirements	<p>Applicants must have a recognized baccalaureate degree for admission. Other admission requirements may include English language proficiency and/or other requirements as established by a Faculty.</p>

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Credential Category	Credit Hour Requirement	Parchment Nomenclature	Major Eligibility
Post Baccalaureate Certificate	Minimum of 15 credit hours	"Post Baccalaureate Certificate in"	No
Minor Eligibility	Specialization Eligibility	Concentration Eligibility	Distinction/Great Distinction
No	No	No	No
Designation Eligibility		Course Level	Year of Study Equivalency
Transcript notation: Post Baccalaureate Certificate in XXXXX. No other designations apply.		Undergraduate	0.5 years
Definition	A post baccalaureate certificate is a program that has been designed within a specialized specific subject area with advanced courses normally found at the 300 and 400 levels. They are normally offered to individuals who require courses in a specialized area for the purposes, licensure or professional association recognition, or career progression/specialization.		
Major, Minor, Concentration, and Specialization Regulations	Majors, minors, concentrations, and specializations are not available in a post-baccalaureate certificate program.		
Admission Requirements	Applicants must have a recognized baccalaureate degree for admission. Other admission requirements may include English language proficiency and/or other requirements as established by a Faculty.		

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Credential Category	Credit Hour Requirement	Parchment Nomenclature	Major Eligibility
Post Baccalaureate Diploma	Minimum 30 credit hours	"Post Baccalaureate Diploma in"	No
Minor Eligibility	Specialization Eligibility	Concentration Eligibility	Distinction/Great Distinction
No	No	No	No
Designation Eligibility		Course Level	Year of Study Equivalency
Transcript notation: Post Baccalaureate Diploma in XXXXX Other notations if eligible: Major in XXXXXX		Undergraduate	1 year
Definition	A post baccalaureate diploma is a program that has been designed within a specialized specific subject area with advanced courses normally found at the 300 and 400 levels. They are normally offered to individuals who require courses in a specialized area for the purposes, licensure or professional association recognition, or career progression/specialization.		
Major, Minor, Concentration, and Specialization Regulations	Majors, minors, concentrations, and specializations are not available in a post-baccalaureate diploma program.		
Admission Requirements	Applicants must have a recognized baccalaureate degree for admission. Other admission requirements may include English language proficiency and/or other requirements as established by a Faculty.		

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Credential Category	Credit Hour Requirement	Parchment Nomenclature	Major Eligibility
Conjoint/Double Degree	Minimum 150 Credit Hours	Two parchments are issued, one for each program. "Bachelor of"	Yes. In one of, but not both, programs and not in the specific subject are of the 2 nd credential.
Minor Eligibility	Specialization Eligibility	Concentration Eligibility	Distinction/Great Distinction
Yes	No	No	Yes
Designation Eligibility		Course Level	Year of Study Equivalency
Transcript Notation: Bachelor of XXXXXX Other notations, if eligible, include: International, Co-operative Education, Internship, Bilingual mention/mention bilingue, Distinction, Great Distinction, Major in XXXXXX Minor in XXXXXX.		Undergraduate	5 to 6 years depending on the credit hour completion requirements.
Definition	A conjoint or double degree program allow the structured completion of two programs simultaneously and a faster pace than if the two programs were completed separated. Conjoint or double degree programs are generally offered via the collaboration of two faculties. Conjoint or double degree programs normally have up to 30 credit hours that can be cross credited and applied to both programs.		
Major, Minor, Concentration, and Specialization Regulations	Majors, minors, concentrations, and specializations are normally not available in a conjoint or double degree. Faculties may approve majors and minors within these programs in situations where course completion requirements would facilitate the award of these designations. See Undergraduate Baccalaureate degree for more information.		
Admission Requirements	Applicants follow the specific admission requirements of the program.		

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Credential Category	Credit Hour Requirement	Parchment Nomenclature	Major Eligibility
Collaborative/Joint Degree Program	Minimum 120 Credit Hours	"Bachelor of"	Yes if the agreement specifies.
Minor Eligibility	Specialization Eligibility	Concentration Eligibility	Distinction/Great Distinction
Yes if the agreement specifies.	No	No	Yes
Designation Eligibility		Course Level	Year of Study Equivalency
Transcript Notation: Bachelor of XXXXXX Other notations if eligible: International, Co-operative Education, Internship, Bilingual mention/mention bilingue, Distinction, Great Distinction, Major in XXXXXX Minor in XXXXXX.		Undergraduate	4 years.
Definition	A collaborative or joint degree program exists when the University of Regina partners with another post-secondary institution in the delivery of a degree program(s). Collaborative and joint degree programs require the development of a formalized agreement which details the responsibilities for delivery, academic content, student admission procedures, financial arrangements, and so on. Assistance with this process is available from the office of the Associate Vice-President, Academic.		
Major, Minor, Concentration, and Specialization Regulations	Majors, minors, concentrations, and specializations can be made available in a collaborative or joint degree program and would follow the same regulations as a U of R baccalaureate program. See Undergraduate Baccalaureate degree for more information.		
Admission Requirements	Applicants follow the general admission requirements as specified in the formal agreement.		