**Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities:**

**Major Modification Proposal Brief**

**2019 – SOC - 6897**

**Confederation College Aboriginal Community Advocacy Diploma to Honours Bachelor Degree in Political Science**

**Articulation Agreement**

Many programs within the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities act as an important step in the credentialing ladder for students and professional in Northwestern Ontario. In the process of data analysis and discussion during an ONCAT funded pilot project; faculty and administration from Lakehead University and Confederation College identified that establishing a formal transfer pathway from the Aboriginal Community Advocacy diploma to appropriate degree level credentials in the Social Sciences and Humanities is necessary.

The development of this pathway serves two overarching purposes. Firstly, to enhance the accessibility of degree level credentials for Indigenous focused programs and learners in the region served by Lakehead University. Secondly, to provide fair, consistent and visible transfer credit pathways for Confederation College students to increase transfer student enrolment at Lakehead University from Confederation College. Confederation College reports enrolling over 3000 students per year, however Lakehead University receives an average of only 70 transfer students during Fall intake since 2015.

**1. An Introduction & Rationale for the proposed Articulation Agreement between Confederation College Aboriginal Community Advocacy Diploma to Bachelor of Science (General) Degree**

Through participation in two ONCAT funded projects, the Indigenous Pathways project and the Faculty Fellows Pilot Project the Office of the Provost (Academic), the Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities and select faculty from a variety of departments identified the Aboriginal Community Advocacy diploma as optimal for developing a transfer pathway to select degrees in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Specific to the Indigenous Pathways project, rationale includes:

* Increase opportunities for credential laddering in Ontario specific to Indigenous programs that are likely to have a higher proportion of Indigenous students enrolled.
* To optimize transfer credit opportunities and transfer pathways for Indigenous learners in Ontario’s post-secondary system.

During the Faculty Fellows Project we discovered further rationale including:

* Social Sciences and Humanities is the top of receiving Faculty, after Health and Behavioural Sciences, for transfer students from Confederation College.
* Aboriginal Community Advocacy is the 2nd to the top sending credential to the Social Sciences and Humanities (1st is Police Foundations).
* The bulk of Aboriginal Community Advocacy diploma graduates transfer into either the Indigenous Learning or Political Science degrees.
* Many of the current Aboriginal Community Advocacy transfer students enrolled at Lakehead University:
  + Receive credit and/or take electives in Sociology, therefore Sociology should be included.
  + Receive inconsistent transfer credit when assessed on a case by case basis which, when reviewed by Enrolment Services and the Chairs of the respective departments, solidified the need for a formal transfer credit package.
  + Are still required to take several 1.0 FCE first year pre-requisites with a large amount of overlapping content. Additionally, because they are often unable to use all of their transfer credit due to an overabundance of unspecified transfer credit at the 1st year level.

The Chairs of Political Science, Indigenous Learning and Sociology came together to create a unique and creative transfer credit package for graduates from the Aboriginal Community Advocacy diploma, who meet the minimum requirements. Students will receive a transfer credit packages that includes specified credits from each department regardless of which program the students choose.

Specifically, through this proposed pathway, graduates from the Aboriginal Community Advocacy diploma at Confederation College will receive one and half years of transfer credit (8.0 FCEs) and be able to complete the HBA in Political Science or the HBA in Indigenous Learning or the HBA in Sociology within two and a half years (12.0 FCEs).

This proposal brief pertains to the Political Science credential.

**2. Program Learner Outcomes**

Program learner outcomes for the HBA in Political Science reflect the Department’s teaching and learning commitments, and align with the six broad categories of the OCAV guidelines for Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations.

Graduates of the HBA in Political Science will demonstrate:

1. The ability to apply independent critical thinking skills using individually held knowledge and critical reflection to evaluate evidence and arrive at a judgement regarding the issue at hand.
2. The ability to compare theoretical perspectives to:
   1. explain phenomena,
   2. apply theory to practice,
   3. break down complex problems into components
   4. categorize data and ideas
   5. show relationships between variables
   6. problem solving
   7. identify critical issues
   8. anticipate obstacles and appraise solutions/options
3. The ability to clearly communicate ideas in a logical and consistent manner.
4. The ability to engage in an interactive process of leadership by influencing a group towards a shared goal.

Our programs continue to align with wider Lakehead University goals and objectives as outlined in the Academic Plan in terms of:

* 1. *Achieve Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Research (High Quality Undergraduate and Graduate Programs, Engaged and Successful Students, Faculty and Staff, and Intense Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity)*

This component does not directly apply to our proposal, since the emphasis is on providing greater access to prospective students rather than an effort to improve on existing programming.

* 1. *Extend Community Engagement and Outreach*

This proposal aims to promote access to new potential student populations from the community, through developing pathways from College to University. In particular we hope to engage Indigenous students and others who advocate for Indigenous issues in our community. Our programs have the capability of offering training that will make them much more effective in community-level advocacy and social justice initiatives.

* 1. *Strengthen our Commitment to Social Justice*

This is met with two primary directions. The first is improving access to university programs for students in the Aboriginal Community Advocacy program, many of whom are first generation and/or Indigenous students. The second is by offering these transfer students university training in Sociology, Political Science, Indigenous Learning, other cognate disciplines, we will improve their capability to advocate for positive change and social justice in the community.

* 1. *Enhance our Support of First Nations, Métis and Inuit (Aboriginal) Students / Expand our International Reach*

Since this initiative is a direct effort to attract and develop transfer pathways from the college program “Aboriginal Community Advocacy,” it is clearly an effort to enhance opportunities for Indigenous students, as well as further their education in issues surrounding indigeneity.

**3. Admission Requirements**

Transfer students wishing to enter the HBA in Political Science:

* Completed the Confederation College Aboriginal Community Advocacy diploma with an overall 75% minimum average,

Other Regulations: All other regulations that are applicable to students registered in the aforementioned HBA degree credentials remain in force.

**4. Structure**

Lakehead University faculty/administration provided significant feedback into course sequencing. Using a combination of previous transfer student transcripts as well as consultations with the Chairs of each respective department this pathway achieves a legitimate scaffolding of learning outcomes and staging of appropriate pre-requisites within the condensed transfer degree formats resulting in our final program structure. The follow Tables 1, 2 and 3 represent the original degree structure for the aforementioned programs with courses included in the transfer credit package highlighted in red.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lakehead University HBA in Political Science | FCE Count | Confederation College Course Equivalents |
| Political Science 1100 | 1.0 | LV 109, 204, 212, 213, 315, 408  NC 124 |
| Political Science 2110 | 0.5 |  |
| Political Science 4110 | 0.5 |  |
| **Subtotal** | **2.0** |  |
| Elective in Political Science at the 2nd year level | 1.0 | LV 209, LV 210, LV 408, MC 155, CS 040, OL 843, 2 x General Electives |
| Elective in Political Science at the 2nd year level | 1.0 |  |
| Elective in Political Science at the 2nd year level | 0.5 |  |
| Elective in Political Science at the 3rd/4th year level | 1.0 |  |
| Elective in Political Science at the 3rd/4th year level | 1.0 |  |
| Elective in Political Science at the 4th year level | 1.0 |  |
| Elective in Political Science at the 4th year level | 1.0 |  |
| Elective in Political Science at the 4th year level | 0.5 |  |
| **Subtotal** | **7.0** |  |
| Open Elective | 1.0 | LV 109, LV 124, LV 209 |
| Open Elective | 1.0 |  |
| Open Elective | 1.0 |  |
| Open Elective | 1.0 |  |
| Open Elective | 1.0 |  |
| Open Elective | 1.0 |  |
| Open Elective at 2nd year level | 1.0 | LV 209, LV 210, LV 408, MC 155, CS 040, OL 843, 2 x General Electives |
| Open Elective at 2nd year level | 1.0 |
| **Subtotal** | **8.0** |  |
| Elective from Type A List (Humanity Year 1) | 1.0 | LV 100, LV 110, LV 202, LV 210 |
| Elective from Type A List (Humanity Year 1) | 1.0 | LV 409, 410, 411, 412 |
| Elective from Type B List (Social Science Year 1) | 1.0 | LV 109, 204, 212, 213, 315, 408  NC 124 |
| **Subtotal** | **3.0** |  |
|  |  |  |
| Total FCE Count for Degree | 20 |  |
| Total Transfer Credit | **8.0** |  |
| FCE’s required to Graduate | **12.0** |  |

**5. Program Content**

The course requirements for the ACA diploma to HBA Political Science degree pathway are founded on the core curriculum of the Direct Entry course structure and guided by:

* Gap analysis of course content via in person discussions and negotiations amongst the faculty of all involved Lakehead programs;
* Consultation with select transfer students who have transferred to Lakehead from the Aboriginal Community Advocacy program;
* Review of past transfer student transcripts (those who had completed an ACA diploma) and discussions with staff from Admissions and Enrolment services to establish a precedent on the types of credit awarded in the past;
* The Confederation College ACA Program Coordinator responded to the project with enthusiasm but did not have time to participate in the gap analysis.

After discussions with all Lakehead University stakeholders, the Chairs of Political Science, Political Science and Sociology reviewed both the transfer admission numbers as well as a summary of transfer credit awarded historically to ACA diploma graduates. As a group, an initial credit transfer package was selected through a review of the ACA diploma course content.

Individual meetings between the Pathways Coordinator and Program chairs to engage in more in-depth course review informed the final transfer credit package and pathway course structure. Table 2 provides a more detailed look the specific transfer credit and course equivalencies. It is important to note that whether the student applies to Political Science, Sociology or Political Science, they will be getting the “same” transfer credit package and waived pre-requisites on course equivalents.

**Table 2 - Course Equivalencies and Notes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lakehead Courses Being Credited | Confederation College Course Equivalents |
| Indigenous Learning 1100 – Intro to IL | LV 100 – History of Indigenous Canadian Relations  LV 110 – Canadian Government Law & Indigenous Peoples  LV 202 – Indigenous Law and Self Government  LV 210 – Indigenous Knowledge and Ethics |
| Indigenous Learning 1310 – Methods/Approaches in IL | LV 109 – Indigenous Identity in Relation to Land  NC 124 – Culture, Language and the Land  LV 209 – Applied Research and Writing |
| Sociology 1100 – Intro to Sociology | LV 109 – Indigenous Identity in Relation to Land  204 – Introduction to Advocacy  212 – Governance and Leadership  213 – Community Development Processes  315 – Indigenous People: Land & Environment  408 – Indigenous Justice and Alternatives  NC 124 – Culture, Language and the Land |
| Political Science 1100 – Intro to Political Science |
| Sociology 2755 – Tech, Society and Indigenous Peoples in Canada | LV 209 – Applied Research and Ethics  LV 210 – Indigenous Knowledge and Ethics  LV 408 – Indigenous Justice and Alternatives |
| One FCE elective (Type A List – Humanity) | LV 409 – International Human Rights & Indigenous People  LV 410 – Contemporary Issues & Social Justice  LV 411 – Advanced Advocacy Seminar  LV 412 – Advocating for Children & Youth |
| One FCE Unspecified Full FCE elective in Sociology at the Second Year Level | MC 155 – Microsoft Office Applications  CS 040 – College Writing Essentials  OL 843 – History of Indigenous Canadian Relations  General Elective x 2  LV 390 – Community Project  LV 310 – Indigenous Women: Issues and Advocacy  LV 340 – Mediation & Negotiation in Indigenous Communities  LV 407 – Internship/Placement |
| One FCE Unspecified Full FCE elective in Indigenous Learning at the Second Year Level |
| One FCE Unspecified Full FCE elective in Political Science at the Second Year Level |

**6. Mode of Delivery**

We offer lecture-based and seminar courses to undergraduate students. We offer required courses in theory and methods that is common to Sociology programs at all other major institutions. We are increasingly striving to provide more experiential learning (e.g. food studies, food security courses), where students increasingly make connections and spend time in community and organizational contexts.

**7. Assessment of Teaching and Learning**

We offer lecture-based and seminar courses to undergraduate students. We offer required courses in theory and methods that is common to Sociology programs at all other major institutions. We are increasingly striving to provide more experiential learning (e.g. food studies, food security courses), where students increasingly make connections and spend time in community and organizational contexts.

**8. Resources for Undergraduate Programs**

The resources required to maintain our traditional course offerings in the Political Science program will remain the same despite potential increased enrollment through the proposed transfer pathway.

**Faculty and Staff**

As of 2019/2020 the Faculty of Political Science consists of 6 full time faculty. Two faculty members are cross-listed with Interdisciplinary Studies. We are able to support up to ten more undergraduate students in the HBA POLI program without requiring resources for regular courses beyond what currently exists.

**Physical & Financial Resources**

The proposed changes we have made to our program structure do not require new resources.

**9. Other Quality Indicators**

Faculty in the HBA of Political Science have a diverse background of experience and expertise, and are actively engaged in research, teaching, community engagement, and university service. Their funding and connections to community partners and government based organizations have resulted in both applied and theoretical learning and research opportunities for our students. The program regularly places graduating students in top ranked Canadian and International graduate and law programs.Appendix 1:

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT PROPOSAL

**PART 1 – BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPOSED ARTICULATION**

**Title of the College Diploma:** Confederation College Aboriginal Community Advocacy Diploma

**Title of the Articulated Lakehead University Degree:** Honours Bachelor of Political Science

**An Introduction and Rationale for the Articulation**

Many programs within the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities act as an important step in the credentialing ladder for students and professional in Northwestern Ontario. In the process of data analysis and discussion during an ONCAT funded pilot project; faculty and administration from Lakehead University and Confederation College identified that establishing a formal transfer pathway from the Aboriginal Community Advocacy diploma to appropriate degree level credentials in the Social Sciences and Humanities is necessary.

**Objectives of the articulation.** The intent of this articulation is to provide a clear pathway for Confederation College’s two year Aboriginal Community Advocacy diploma graduates into the Department of Political Science’s HBA in Political Science to support:

* The accessibility of degree level credentials for Indigenous focused programs and learners in the region served by Lakehead University,
* Awarding fair, consistent and transparent transfer credit packages for Confederation College students.

Signatures:

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Chair, Department of Political Science

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Date

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Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

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Date

**Part 2: Terms of Agreement**

**1. State the dates covered by the agreement**

This agreement will commence immediately following Senate approval, with anticipation start date of September 2021, and will expire in May 2026. This agreement shall be reviewed as part of the periodic appraisal of the Honours Bachelor of Political Science program; any changes made to the program as a result of this review will be communicated to the Aboriginal Community Advocacy Program Coordinator at Confederation College. Confederation College will ensure that any changes in Aboriginal Community Advocacy Diploma course names/content are communicated to the Chair and faculty of the Political Science Department.

**2. Provide the detailed admission criteria including:**

*Number of academic years or academic terms for the college diploma.*

The Confederation College Aboriginal Community Advocacy Diploma is a two-year, four semester program. The formal program description outlines the program as being:

*Confederation College’s Aboriginal Community Advocacy diploma program will provide you with a strong understanding of the historic social, legal and political issues affecting Indigenous-Canadian relations today. You’ll also explore best practices in leadership, government, justice and sustainable land and resource management. With a focus on Indigenous principles and a solid foundation in community development and advocacy skills, you will be prepared for a diverse range of social-justice related careers.*

*The admission criteria that match/surpass the minimum Lakehead University admission criteria for college diploma graduates*.

To be considered for admission applicants are require to have:

* Completed the Confederation College Aboriginal Community Advocacy diploma with an overall 75% minimum average,

Other Regulations: All other regulations that are applicable to students registered in the HBA Political Science remain active.

*Specific transfer evaluation information of college course(s)/credits.*

The basis for the development of this articulation agreement was a content gap analysis of the overarching program-based skill sets and course level learner outcomes as well as historic transfer credit packages awarded to students transferring between the Aboriginal Community Advocacy Diploma and the HBA of Political Science. The results of this analysis were then negotiated through multiple rounds of consultations with Lakehead University faculty.

The resulting pathway evolving from the gap analysis and consultations is represented in Table 3. Students in this program receive transfer credit from the courses in the Aboriginal Community Advocacy program that accounts for the completion of the ICR (SOCI 2755).

**Table 3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FCE | **Year 1** |
| 0.5 | (a) Political Science 2110 |
| 3.0 | (b) Three full-course electives at the second year level or higher |
| 1.5 | (c) One and one half FCEs in Political Science at the second year level |
| FCE | **Year 2** |
| 2.0 | (a) Two full-course electives in Political Science at the third/fourth year level |
| 2.5 | (b) Two and one half full-course electives in Political Science at the fourth year level |
| 0.5 | (c) One half course elective approved by the department |
| FCE | **Year 3** |
| 0.5 | (a) Political Science 4110 |
| 1.5 | (b) One and one half FCE electives approved by the Department |

*Maximum number of course credits to be received by the student as part of the transfer if all terms of the agreement are fulfilled.*

The ACA Diploma students will receive 8.0 FCEs of block transfer credit towards the HBA Political Science.

As part of this transfer agreement students can complete the HBA Political Science degree in just over two years.

**3. The terms shall also specify:**

*Any specific conditions related to the college transfer credits*.

Confederation College ACA diploma graduates will receive a total of 8.0 FCEs block transfer credit for the following courses contained within the HBA Political Science, HBA Indigenous Learning and HBA Sociology degree programs:

INDI 1100 – Introduction to Indigenous Learning (1.0 FCE)

INDI 1310 – Methods/Approaches to Indigenous Learning (0.5 FCE)

POLI 1100 – Introduction to Political Science (1.0 FCE)

SOCI 1100 – Introduction to Sociology (1.0 FCE)

SOCI 2755 – Technology, Society and Indigenous Peoples in Canada (0.5 FCE)

One full course in open elective from Type A Humanities List (1.0 FCE)

One full course Political Science elective at the second year level (1.0 FCE)

One full course Indigenous Learning elective at the second year level (1.0 FCE)

One full course Sociology elective at the second year level (1.0 FCE)

*Effective date of agreement.* September 2021 if approved by Senate during the 2019-20 academic year.

Signatures:

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Director of Admissions & Recruitment

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College Representative

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Date

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Chair, Department of Political Science

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Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

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Date