

Portage College Academic Charter



INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Portage College's first Academic Charter was initiated by the academic leaders, and developed in consultation and collaboration with the academic community of the college. The plan is guided by the college's mandate, strategic plan and the letter of expectation.

The overarching goal of the academic charter is to inform and guide our practice in teaching and learning, clarify goals and priorities as they support the college strategic plan and create an academic community that foster student success by providing an exceptional learning experience.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our practice in teaching and learning is founded on guiding principles that serve as a framework on which our decisions and behaviour is based. These principles are not goal statements or strategies, but hold true in the manner in which goals and strategies are rolled out.

1. All people have potential and deserve access to quality higher education.
2. Start with an end in mind.
3. The world is our classroom.
4. We maintain an acute consciousness of environmental impacts and are willing to change and adapt proactively.



All people have potential and deserve an opportunity to access quality higher education.

A

Offer high quality, relevant programs

- ✓ Develop programming in program areas to respond to employment trends.
- ✓ **Meet** and exceed requirements for the delivery of externally accredited programs across various areas.
- ✓ Adhere to our internal essential quality standards.

C

Commit to teaching excellence

- ✓ The College is committed to hiring highly qualified people.
- ✓ New faculty hires will participate in Foundations in Teaching (FiT 1 and 2) to support and enhance teaching at Portage College.
- ✓ Portage College supports faculty development to facilitate teaching excellence and maintain currency in instructional strategies and their teaching disciplines.

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Commit to incorporate essential skills across program areas.

Portage College commits to providing individuals with the nine essential skills required for work, learning and life: reading, document use, numeracy, writing, oral communication, working with others, thinking, computer use and continuous learning.

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Respond to educational needs of students

- ✓ Meet the diverse needs of learners by providing personalized, accessible learning opportunities.
- ✓ Develop individual education and pathway strategies based on needs and circumstances.
- ✓ Commit to working with students on skills for success strategies.
- ✓ Engage with and foster the relationship between students, academic team and support staff.
- ✓ Integrate professional and workplace competencies throughout our programming.

Start with an end in mind

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Identify knowledge, skills and attitudes in curriculum development

- ✓ Formalize current curriculum development procedures to align with current and relevant outcomes, assessments and learning strategies.

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Reinforce and recognize lifelong learning

- ✓ Provide career counseling to support post-secondary educational pathways for students.
- ✓ Formalize opportunities for secondary students to be exposed to various career opportunities and earn credits towards post-secondary education.
- ✓ Foster learning opportunities for students to support a changing work environment and personal fulfillment.
- ✓ Deliver curriculum in multiple modalities reinforcing the use of various learning strategies to support lifelong learning
- ✓ Participate and support opportunities that foster easier access to curriculum across institutions.
- ✓ Collaborate with school divisions in our region to start career and goal setting with high school students.

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Initiate the journey with goal setting

- ✓ Recognize that goals are a fundamental component to student success.
- ✓ Work with students to set and achieve realistic goals. Goals propel students forward.

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Recognize College personnel as our most valuable resource

- ✓ Provide a wide range of extracurricular programs and activities to promote a sense of community.
- ✓ Align individual performance plans with the College Strategic Plan.
- ✓ Provide internal and external Professional Development opportunities.

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The world is our classroom

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Inspire cross disciplinary studies, networked learning and entrepreneurship

- ✓ Deliver courses required across multiple program areas resulting in cross disciplinary teaching and learning.
- ✓ Utilize practicums to create opportunities for experiential learning and reinforcement of classroom curriculum.

Ensure students and Faculty connect, communicate and collaborate

- ✓ Explore different ways of applying learning across disciplines as a way of building in-depth, flexible and lifelong knowledge, skills and attitudes that extend beyond a particular skill set or particular career.
- ✓ Emphasizes formative assessment practices using e-learning portfolios with ongoing support and feedback from others.
- ✓ Bring global expertise into the classroom.
- ✓ Expand the use of new technology to collaborate and communicate.
- ✓ Acknowledge learning from beyond the classroom.

Facilitate learning to learn

- ✓ Develop skills and strategies that can be applied in many different learning environments.
- ✓ Empower learners to be goal oriented, self-reflective and self-motivated, while building on their own strengths.

Recognize prior learning and experience

- ✓ Recognize that significant learning can and does occur outside the classroom and that academic credits may be awarded for an individual's learning.
- ✓ Assist adult learners in identifying, describing and demonstrating past learning that may be eligible for advanced standing or course credits.
- ✓ Award credits for appropriate learning that can be demonstrated or aligned with learning choice according to our academic assessment.

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We maintain an acute consciousness of environmental impacts and are willing to respond and adapt proactively

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Make decisions based on evidence

- ✓ Conduct research to determine future viability of new and current program offerings.

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Improve overall quality and transformative impact of all academic and skills based programs on an ongoing basis

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- ✓ Conduct annual health check for each College credit program.
- ✓ Conduct full audit for each College program at least once every five years.
- ✓ Hold annual or semi-annual program advisory committee meetings for every College credit program.

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Maximize program efficiency

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- ✓ Broker curriculum and/or share curriculum with other post-secondary institutions.
- ✓ Deliver programs in conjunction with other post-secondary institutions.
- ✓ Utilize various modalities and support models to deliver curriculum across multiple campus locations.
- ✓ Work closely with industry to provide business incubation opportunities.
- ✓ Seek out applied research opportunities whenever possible in partnership with industry.

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