

Framework for Cross-Faculty Degree Programs

Purpose: This Framework establishes pan-University principles to support Cross-Faculty Degree Programs. It is intended to facilitate collaborative activities that reinforce York University's reputation for cutting edge interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary programming, and to ensure such programs can be delivered effectively and sustainably. The motivation for introducing the Framework is to overcome real or perceived barriers to cross-Faculty programming to enable curricular innovation, create more opportunities for students to think across disciplines, and highlight more effectively the University's overall strengths and offerings in thematic areas of study and inquiry.

Cross-Faculty Degree Program definition: This Framework applies to degree programs, whether graduate or undergraduate, that are dependent in practice for their delivery of major/required course offerings and instructors from more than one Faculty.

Process: The Framework is sponsored by the Provost & VP Academic and endorsed by Deans to express their collective commitment to fostering high quality, sustainable Cross-Faculty Degree Programs. It is reviewed regularly to ensure its continued relevance and that it is serving its intended role in encouraging the shared design, operation, resourcing and governance of innovative programs for which there is demonstrable student demand.

Principles

- 1. Collaboration to Promote Institutional Priorities:** Deans' Offices will work with each other, and with the Office of the Provost, VP Academic, and AVP Graduate as appropriate to eliminate unintended barriers to the establishment and flourishing of high-quality Cross-Faculty Degree Programs.
- 2. Student-Centred Approach:** Deans' Offices will work with academic units, the Division of Students, and the Faculty of Graduate Studies as appropriate to ensure that Cross-Faculty Degree Programs are promoted through a strategic webpage that serves as a gateway to provide prospective and enrolled students with centralized and consistent information and links to other relevant websites. The web gateway should explain clearly the different pathways available to complete the program, what students might consider in choosing their pathway, and other key information such as the transferrable and professional skills they will gain through the Cross-Faculty Degree Program, careers that have been or can be pursued by its graduates, and how to obtain further information or program-specific advising. Where multiple Cross-Faculty Degree Programs are offered in or around an interdisciplinary theme or subject area, a single gateway will be used to cluster programs under a common umbrella that maximizes the visibility of York University's overall program strength in the area, and clearly differentiates among the various programs and pathways on offer.
- 3. Equitable and Fair Sharing of Resources:** Revenues and costs of Cross-Faculty Degree Programs will be shared equitably by Faculties based on the contributions of participating units. To the extent that the normal operation of SHARP leaves a participating unit with a disproportionate share of costs to deliver the program compared to revenues received, Deans have the flexibility and are committed to working together to redress the imbalance and ensure equitable and sustainable resourcing over an agreed upon term. Fair distribution may consider revenues from student enrolments, administrative support costs, space costs, lab costs, teaching assignments, and other mutually agreed upon costs. Should Deans be unable to agree, they will seek the assistance of the Provost & VP Academic to resolve the issue by clarifying or adjusting the normal application of the budget model as appropriate.

4. **Collaborative Planning:** Cross-Faculty Degree Programs benefit from explicit commitments to shared planning through a Program Committee with collegial representation from participating units. For all new Cross-Faculty Degree Programs and for established Programs that encounter planning challenges, Deans' Offices will work with Program leaders to establish Memoranda of Understanding or other written, mutually agreed processes for decision making about, and resourcing of:
- course offerings,
 - faculty teaching contributions, particularly at the graduate level,
 - supervision of students, if applicable,
 - coordination and administration,
 - responsibility and accountability for degree program delivery,
 - space and equipment,
 - timetabling,
 - marketing and recruitment; and
 - other planning matters.

Planning is normally done on a three-year rolling horizon on the recommendation of the Program Committee. Deans' Offices will work jointly to assist in problem solving where needed, and where necessary will seek assistance from the Provost & Vice-President Academic.

Deans' Offices are tasked with review of Cross-Faculty Degree Programs at least every three years, or at least once between Cyclical Program Reviews, to confirm their resourcing and operation are aligned with this Framework, and to assess the viability of Programs in light of student satisfaction and student demand.

5. **Curriculum Innovation:** Units participating in Cross-Faculty Degree Programs are encouraged to pursue further curriculum innovation to enhance, consolidate, and simplify multiple offerings or pathways into more streamlined and cohesive programs that take better advantage of pan-University strengths in an interdisciplinary field of study.
6. **Seed Support:** The Office of the Provost & VP Academic will maintain a seed fund to support initiatives to create new, or strengthen existing, Cross-Faculty Degree Programs. Faculty members and their Deans' Offices may apply jointly for matching resources to support concentrated work on curriculum development, as well as staff support or funding to obtain research, data and expertise that will inform planning and promotion efforts.
7. **Conflict Resolution** – It is acknowledged that the deepest and most comprehensive understanding of a Program is at the program level and, therefore, conflicts should be resolved as close to the Program as possible. Programs and Program Committees are encouraged to address any issues promptly and informally. In the event of a conflict that resists immediate resolution, Program proponents should approach the relevant Deans for advice. If conflicts continue to persist, any party may seek the advice of the Provost's Office. If informal resolution is unsuccessful or inappropriate, the Provost's Office will be responsible for determining the solution. Depending on the nature of the problem, other university offices may be consulted.