

Education
PATHWAYS



Students on the move

LINDA WHITE
Special to QMI Agency

As Miranda Roach neared the end of a three-year journalism program at Durham College, she decided to pursue a university degree in communications. Thanks to a bridge program, she ultimately graduated with both credentials within just five years.

"If I didn't have the bridge option and was told I had to start over, I know I wouldn't have gone to university because I wasn't willing to do seven years of school," says Roach.

Shortly after graduating from the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (which shares a campus with Durham College in Oshawa) last year, she landed a job as a project co-ordinator. "I think having both college and university is working to my advantage."

Durham College offers 450+ agreements with universities in Ontario, across the country and around the world that allow qualified graduates to enter numerous undergraduate degree programs with advanced

standing and complete their degree requirements in as little as two years.

"The real strength of the pathway conversation is that students now can go in multiple directions," says Durham College president Don Lovisa. "It's easier for them to go from college to college, university to university, college to university or university to college."

Earlier this year, the provincial government launched a course-to-course database on ONTransfer.ca, a service provided by the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer to connect current and prospective students to transfer opportunities. According to the ministry of training, colleges and universities:

- About 21,500 students transfer within Ontario institutions each year.

- The top five transfer programs are business, health, social science,

engineering, and liberal arts/general arts.

- Under the new database, a student majoring in business wanting to transfer to another institution could save an average of \$11,000 in tuition.

Humber College in Toronto is a leader in providing learning pathways for its students. "Some may come into a two-year diploma and don't think they're strong enough or aren't prepared to take on the challenge of a degree," says Alvina Cassiani, dean of the business school.

"If they're successful in their diploma, they can get advanced standing in one of our degree programs and are even eligible for a scholarship.

"Some may complete a diploma, get some industry-related work experience for a few years to earn some money and then return to school to pursue a

degree," Cassiani says.

Humber's bachelor of commerce programs were developed with such pathways in mind. A common platform provides students with a foundation in core business elements like marketing, human resources, finance and economics. That allows them to fast track their way into one of numerous business degree programs, including fashion management, e-business marketing and international business.

Graduates of Humber's police foundations diploma program, meanwhile, are eligible for admission to its four-year bachelor of applied arts – criminal justice degree program.

They can also apply for advanced standing in the college's protection, security and investigation program and its protection, security and investigation: crime scene investigation diploma program.

Qualified police foundations grads may also be eligible to apply their academic credit towards further study at many post-secondary institutions.



Course-to-course
database on
ONTransfer.ca
connects current
and prospective
students
to **transfer**
opportunities
between
colleges and
universities

Durham College journalism graduate >>>
Miranda Roach took advantage of a bridge
program to enter the third year of a
communication degree program at the
University of Ontario Institute of Technology.





Opening more doors

More and more, pathways between post-secondary institutions allow students to open doors that were once closed and to pursue new career and/or educational goals without the need to start from scratch. Here are some examples:

Credit transfer: The most common form of credit transfer is from a college diploma or advanced diploma program to a degree in a college or university. These usually involve a block of transfer credit into a specific point of a degree program and sometime require the completion of bridge courses. (Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer) ONTransfer.ca

Certificate to diploma: Colleges are developing transfer pathways from certificate-to-diploma programs and from diploma-to-advanced diploma programs. ONTransfer.ca

Degree to diploma: Many colleges offer accelerated curriculum for some diploma and advanced diploma programs which provide transfer credits for graduates of university degree programs. ONTransfer.ca

Apprentices: Some colleges offer transfer pathways for certified apprentices into diploma and advanced diploma programs. ONTransfer.ca

Collaborative and joint degree programs: Collaborative programs offer the combination of hands-on learning colleges are known for with the more theoretical approach of university studies. Students may earn either one or two credentials: one from the college and/or one from the university. www.ontariocolleges.ca

Post-graduate certificates: Building on knowledge and experience gained through previous post-secondary study, graduate certificates require a university degree or a college certificate or diploma for admission. www.ontariocolleges.ca