

Ontario Government's Vision and Principles for Higher Education:

Vision:

Ontario's colleges and universities will drive creativity, innovation, knowledge and community engagement through teaching and research. They will put students first by providing the best possible learning experience for all qualified learners in an affordable and financially sustainable way, ensuring high quality, and globally competitive outcomes for students and Ontario's creative economy.

Principle 1: Putting Students First

Ontario's postsecondary education sector must continue to be student focused. Support for improvements to the quality and affordability of education, and the student learning experience, are key to expanding the choices students have in content, delivery and learning models.

Parameters:

- Focus on student choice; improve the quality, flexibility and affordability of postsecondary education.
- Increase student mobility through removing barriers to effective credit transfer within Ontario and ensuring the recognition of Ontario credentials abroad.
- Offer students better choices in the modalities and approaches to learning through adoption of new technology and approaches to learning, and flexible course and degree structures.

Principle 2: Meeting the Needs of the Creative Economy

Transformation will require a redefinition of the role of higher education to serve the foundational needs of the new creative economy, and to ensure that Ontario's postsecondary education remains internationally competitive.

Parameters:

- Achieve Ontario's goal of a 70 percent postsecondary attainment rate and ensure relevance to the labour market, as well as recognize that many students will aspire to start businesses rather than become the employees of others.
- Ensure that graduates have the knowledge and competencies to succeed in the workforce and reinforce the value of undergraduate liberal arts and science education as a foundation of our civil society.
- Increase engagement and partnerships between institutions and the community and where appropriate develop programs that erase the wall between the classroom and the workplace.

Principle 3: Focusing on Productivity, Innovation and Sustainability

Government policy will work better with institutional goals to further encourage the conditions under which universities and colleges can adopt modern and relevant curriculum, use innovation to achieve higher levels of productivity, and are financially sustainable to reflect new economic realities.

Parameters:

- Continue to give priority to differentiation by focusing on institutional strengths and areas of excellence, and the changing needs and demands of our society.
- Strategically managing enrolment and program growth, and exploring cost efficiencies through shared or integrated services.
- Develop strategies to improve productivity through innovation in teaching, technology, infrastructure, program and degree organization, partnerships with businesses and community, and in leveraging and pooling institutional resources.