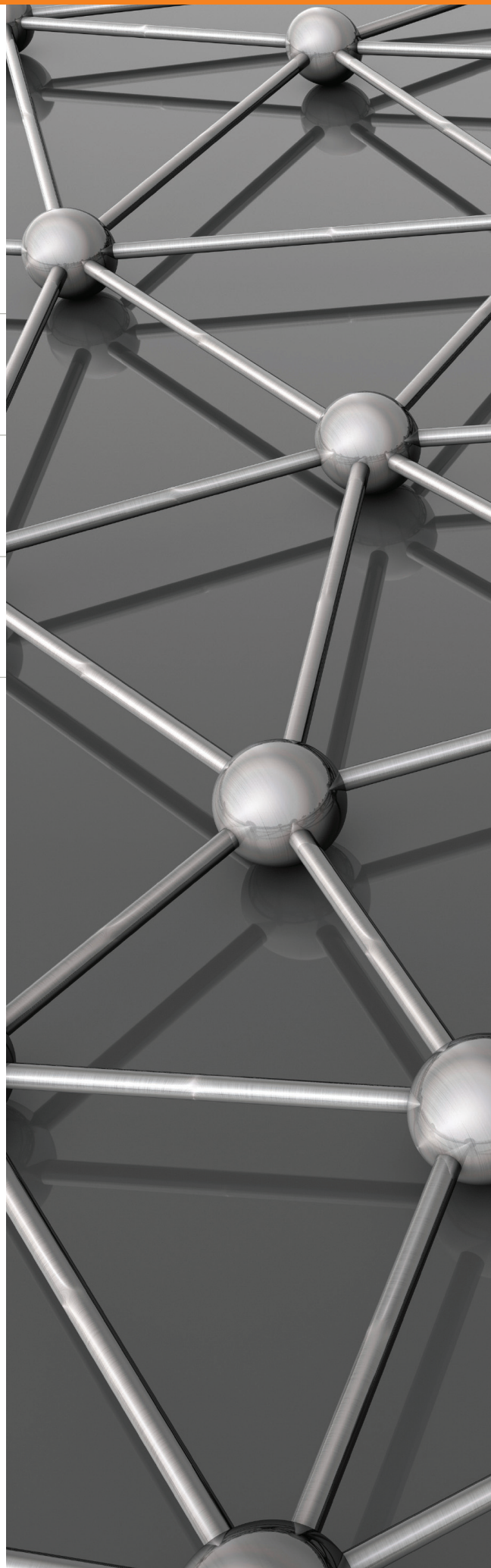

MOHAWK COLLEGE

Academic Plan



May, 2012

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to present the Mohawk College Academic Plan, the result of a year of consultations engaging more than 500 people through meetings, social media and online discussions. The Academic Plan Steering Committee and Task Force received over 3,100 responses to three questions:

- What might make students want to come to Mohawk over the next ten years?
- What core capabilities and skills might students need for the future?
- How might we enable high-quality learning over the next 10 years?

Three key themes emerged from the responses: the need to develop flexible learning options, the need to graduate students with soft skills, and the need to keep faculty current with the latest trends in their respective fields.

Guided by Mohawk's strategic plan, the Steering Committee and Task Force created a plan to describe our academic priorities and inform key future decisions, such as program development, human resource requirements and technology needs. The plan responds to the needs of our stakeholders and ensures that we continue to graduate entrepreneurial and innovative thinkers capable of developing the next great idea and creating opportunities for others. The plan is consistent with our focus on health and technology, and adaptable to the changing needs of students, employers and the communities we serve.

Consider how you'll contribute to the plan's implementation. We will test exciting new ways to deliver programs with the formation of two new centres: the Centre for Health and Technology, and the Centre for Creative Arts and Technology. These are excellent opportunities to get involved in the changing way in which programs are structured and delivered to students. We're becoming a blended learning college, but have just scratched the surface of what is possible and necessary to ensure that the education we offer meets the needs of current and future students.

During my first few years as a faculty member in the School of Engineering Technology at Mohawk, we were redefining ourselves as a cooperative education college. This necessitated some difficult changes: revamping curriculum, moving to year-round teaching, starting faculty visits to employers to ensure our students acquired the skills employers needed. It wasn't easy, but it moved Mohawk forward and helped establish our strong reputation for excellence in technology. Our future changes will continue this tradition of growth.

Mohawk will be an exciting destination for learning in the next decade, because of the work you've done. Now the focus of our work will shift to making the vision described in this plan a reality. We ask you to help develop strategies and plans with us. Let's turn our ideas, and yours, into actions.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Jensen,
Vice President Academic

The building blocks of our Academic Plan are all future focussed.

From labs to lecture halls, and faculty offices to student work centres across campus, Mohawk's uniquely inclusive and technologically-driven approach to education delivers both the theoretical and the practical. We bring faculty, students and industry together in a collaborative way that is at once productive, participative and progressive. Our Academic Plan is fed by five themes:

<p>TECHNOLOGY</p>	<p>LEARNING</p>	<p>SKILLS</p>	<p>PATHWAYS</p>	<p>CONNECTIONS</p>
<p>Technology forms the backbone of the approach. Students and faculty will connect, communicate, compute and collaborate in ways never before possible.</p>	<p>Faculty embrace a student-centred approach with a collaborative outlook, and the flexibility to cross programs and disciplines to deliver a custom experience for students.</p>	<p>Graduates won't just complete their studies, but will also have the 21st century skills imperative for success in the community and the workplace, such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, information, media and technology skills.</p>	<p>From high school to career and beyond, Mohawk helps students navigate a path to the future with a commitment to lifelong learning.</p>	<p>Mohawk's involvement in our community, and our relationships with local industry and other post secondary educational institutions, offer a relevant educational experience for our students leading to meaningful employment.</p>



e-DUCATION. An open invitation.

Technology offers students and faculty previously unimagined ways to make learning mobile, personal, scalable and collaborative.

WIRED FOR LEARNING.

A great advantage technology brings is the ability to share. Mohawk is developing an **open learning platform** to encompass content management, assessment, learning, collaboration and social networking, here at Mohawk and in collaboration with other learning institutions.

Technology is driving rapid change in the world. Look for pilot projects brought to life by faculty, opening up the tremendous potential of **mobile learning opportunities**. The classroom is no longer just a destination; it can be carried in one's pocket.

Technological literacy programs for students, faculty and staff will ensure that everyone is able to reap the full benefit of all the advancements in technology being implemented.

Technology Strategies

MOHAWK TECHNOLOGY TOOLBOX

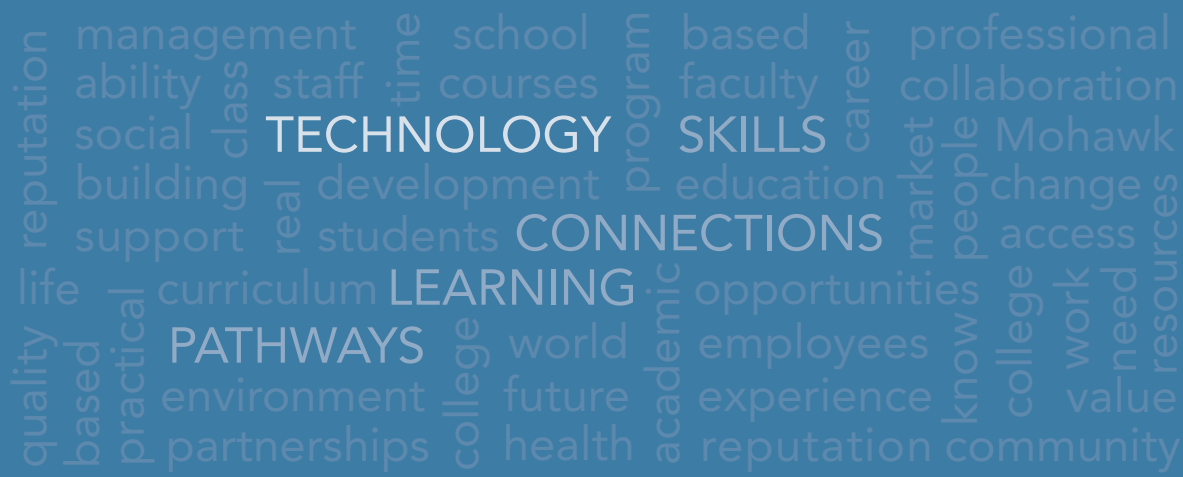
Mohawk will create a comprehensive open learning platform enhanced and strengthened with new technologies.

- Develop a technology-powered learning platform linking content management, assessment tools, e-portfolios, collaboration and social networking applications
- Initiate pilot projects in mobile learning
- Leverage simulation technology to deliver relevant education to a broader student population

OPEN SOURCE LEARNING

Mohawk will foster an open source culture focusing on the collaborative development of learning processes and content among faculty.

- Develop and update online course outlines and online content guides
- Foster partnerships with other educational institutions and local industry, to openly share best practices
- Facilitate internal sharing among staff and faculty, with focus on professional development



TECHNOLOGY LITERACY

Mohawk will support students, faculty and staff in becoming proficient with technology.

- Assess students' technological literacy and have remedial plans and tools in place
- Provide professional development for faculty and staff, supporting optimal use of technology

For more information on learning and technology please visit:

The Open Learning Network: <http://bit.ly/avXvsk>

Information technology at Purdue: <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/studio/>

Algonquin mobile learning: <http://www2.algonquincollege.com/mlearning/>

Educause: Games, Simulations and Virtual Worlds: <http://bit.ly/bs3a95>

Nobel Prize Educational Games: <http://www.nobelprize.org/educational/>

MITx: <http://mitx.mit.edu/>

Moodle: <http://moodle.org/about/>

Seneca Centre for Development of Open Technology: <http://bit.ly/xl80rZ>

Education Week: Tech Literacy Confusion: <http://bit.ly/oG1rq>

iSkills Assessment: <http://www.ets.org/iskills/about/content/>



Learning doesn't fit in a box. (Or even a classroom.)

Enabled by technology, and inspired by a true understanding of how we learn, we embrace a learning philosophy that looks beyond the lecture hall to offer students an innovative and personal learning experience.

FLEXIBLE. PERSONAL. AND EVERYWHERE.

We will recognize **personal learning** through life or work experience; we will offer **cross-disciplinary learning** opportunities, giving students the chance to be involved in diverse programming; **differentiated learning** will be enabled by technology and innovation, providing interactive educational simulations, practical laboratory training, opportunities with local industry and more.

We promise to recognize more than one way to learn, and to embrace all the benefits that a diverse learning environment offers.

Learning Strategies

PERSONAL LEARNING

Mohawk recognizes that invaluable experience can be gained outside the college. Previous work, life and community experiences will be recognized.

- Create personal learning environments for students with the drive to manage their own learning
- Implement a co-curricular transcript
- Strengthen prior learning assessment and recognition practices
- Enhance experiential learning activities (including lab work, simulations, work experience and other formal and informal activities)

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY LEARNING

We will create opportunities for networks of students and faculty from different disciplines to learn and work collaboratively. We will employ an open, decentralized, collaborative approach to education.

- Develop new programs that intersect with (at least two of) the following fields of study: Health, Technology, Arts and Business
- Involve faculty, students, staff and external stakeholders in collaborative program development
- Provide industry- or community-based project opportunities for students to work in cross-disciplinary teams for academic credit
- Create learning communities where faculty, staff and students collaborate with external stakeholders to tackle real-world problems, share best practices and learn from one another



<p>DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING</p>	<p>Mohawk will give students more choice and control over how they learn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer a variety of learning delivery models to accommodate different learning styles • Offer variable pacing to allow individual progress through a course or program • Follow principles of adult learning
<p>FLEXIBLE PROGRAMS</p>	<p>Mohawk will give students more choice and control over when and where they learn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create stackable programs, a smaller number of base programs, complemented by a high number of specialized options • Increase number of programs that can be taken via part-time options, including evening and weekend courses • Identify opportunities to increase the number of programs offered in a compressed or accelerated course format • Provide opportunities for students to set their own pace: fast-track or slow-track
	<p>For more information on Mohawk’s learning philosophy, please visit:</p> <p>The Disruption is Here: http://bit.ly/tLPT7p</p> <p>Khan Academy: The future of education?: http://cbsn.ws/z9K3a8</p> <p>Personal Learning Environment: http://bit.ly/obZUps</p> <p>Acadia Co-Curricular Transcript: http://cct.acadiau.ca/</p> <p>Networked Learning: http://bit.ly/wUDNr1</p> <p>Participatory Learning: http://bit.ly/AovASO</p> <p>Professional Learning Communities: http://bit.ly/HU5yi</p> <p>CISCO The Learning Society: http://bit.ly/a1YSqY</p> <p>Differentiated Instruction: http://bit.ly/33qwc</p> <p>Adult Learning Theory: http://bit.ly/yDQ7UE</p> <p>Western Governors University Student Experience: http://bit.ly/MYYvc</p> <p>Quest University Block Plan: http://bit.ly/xVcJhm</p> <p>CBC ReCivilization: http://bit.ly/wrGci0</p>



21st century skills

Our new academic plan sees Mohawk leading the way in preparing graduates, not only academically, but also with important life and business skills. We will deliver programs that recognize the importance of soft skills in preparing students for a successful career.

EDUCATED. AND PREPARED.

As a reflection of the world around us, we'll do all this with an international perspective and a stimulating and diverse student body.

Skills Strategies

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mohawk will develop institutional learning outcomes, clearly identifying the added value of a Mohawk education.

- Develop three to five Mohawk learning outcomes – the key skills or attributes that all students will develop

SKILL BUILDING

Mohawk will create opportunities for students, faculty and staff to develop essential 21st century skills.

- Integrate development of key 21st century skills into all programs
- Implement a skills-assessment framework
- Provide professional development for Mohawk faculty and staff to develop future workplace skills and share those skills with students

SKILLS



INTERNATIONALIZATION

Mohawk will focus on global awareness and addressing the needs of a diverse student body.

- Strengthen programs to address language barriers to success
- Provide classroom and extra-curricular opportunities that expose students to different cultures
- Implement professional development for faculty and staff to better understand and support diversity

For more information on learning and skill development, please visit:

University of Fraser Valley Learning Outcomes Project: <http://bit.ly/wzogLf>

Mount Royal University Learning Outcomes: <http://bit.ly/xRi9IB>

Partnership for 21st Century Skills: <http://www.p21.org/>

Collegiate Learning Assessment: <http://bit.ly/bhyqaM>

21st Century Fluency Project: <http://bit.ly/9LhbTN>



Learning never stops. Neither do we.

Whether on a path from high school to career, or looking to upgrade or enhance one’s abilities and knowledge, there are many options and directions to consider. Mohawk is there to help all learners find their pathway to success.

ENROLL. UPGRADE. RETRAIN. REFOCUS.

Mohawk’s academic commitment to its students and its community is to offer a myriad of innovative learning pathways, and also to deliver the guidance required to navigate these many opportunities.

From applied learning through industry partnerships, to build-your-own diploma programs, and credit acceptance from other institutions, the result is an outcome that is at once flexible and personal.

Pathways Strategies

RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

Mohawk will continually review and refresh its program mix through a comprehensive analysis including credentials, accreditation, certifications and more.

- Seek international, national or provincial accreditation for Mohawk’s programs
- Partner with industry to offer private certifications, particularly in regulated health and technology areas
- Review program mix, number of programs, credentials offered, program lengths and the potential for Mohawk degree programs

LIFELONG LEARNING

Mohawk will create a stimulating environment encouraging the idea of lifelong learning for students and faculty.

- Integrate post-secondary and continuing education programs to provide maximum flexibility for students
- Provide greater student support and career-option clarity, from pre-admission to post-graduation
- Leverage MCACES and alumni resources
- Focus on employer needs, offering continuous and rapid re-training and skills upgrading for current workers



CREDIT TRANSFER

Offer a seamless transition between other post secondary institutions and Mohawk programs.

- Pursue multi-lateral credit transfer agreements with Ontario public post-secondary institutions
- Create a block credit transfer policy to enable easy transition to Mohawk for students from other institutions or internal programs
- Investigate opportunities to align with global higher education frameworks

For more information on pathways in education, please visit:

University of Guelph Office of Open Learning: <http://bit.ly/xSefUT>

Ontario Credit Transfer Policy Statement: <http://bit.ly/x4UrAJ>

Bologna Accord: <http://bit.ly/4h4eY>

Australian Qualifications Framework: <http://bit.ly/AFrZxp>

York U Block Credit Transfer Policy: <http://bit.ly/xX7Nbm>



Education is collaboration.

Mohawk works closely with industry to ensure programs are relevant and graduates are prepared to step into the workplace to make meaningful contributions.

FACULTY. INDUSTRY. COMMUNITY.

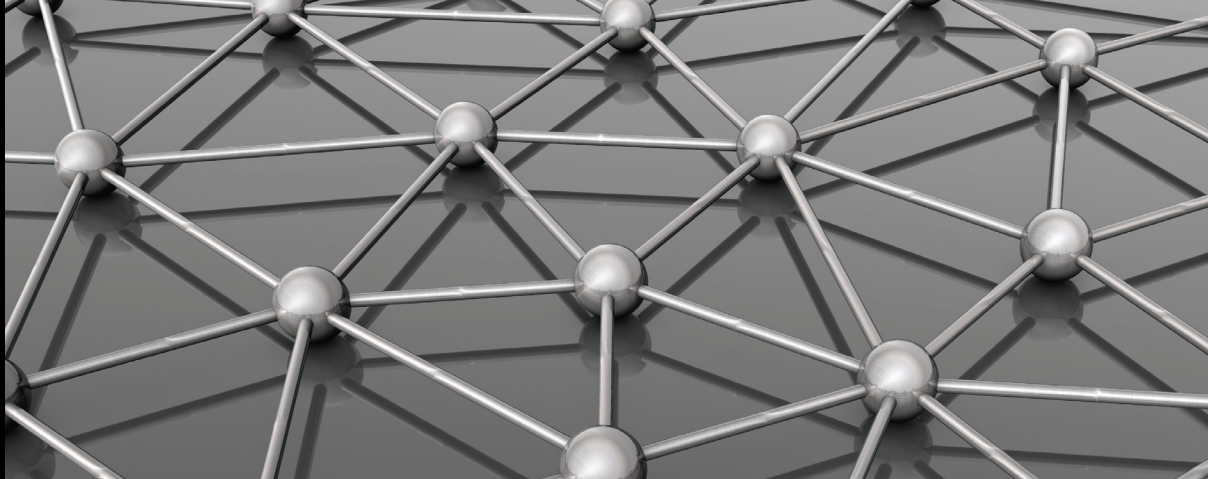
At Mohawk students enjoy the benefits of well-rounded, future-ready programs aimed at helping them create brilliant career opportunities.

Connections Strategies

CONNECTIONS TO INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY

Mohawk will build and strengthen connections with industry and our community partners.

- Support faculty in collaborating with industry so they may stay current in their respective fields
- Involve industry in assessment practices, i.e.: capstone projects
- Leverage program advisory committees for feedback on program of studies, curriculum, assessment practices, experiential learning and other program delivery functions
- Establish “business advisory councils” to help students find relevant, quality employment



The Mohawk Academic Plan was a collaborative effort.

The 36-member Academic Plan Task Force, composed of Faculty, Support Staff, Students and Administrative Representatives, facilitated the development of the plan.

The Academic Plan Decision Support Team provided research to help ensure that strategies and recommendations are evidence-based.

The Task Force facilitated 29 consultation sessions that provided input into the plan through over 3,000 responses to three key questions:

1. What might make students want to come to Mohawk over the next ten years?
2. What core capabilities and skills might our students need for the future?
3. How might we enable high quality learning over the next ten years?

The 29 sessions involved over 500 participants, including:

- 16 sessions with faculty and staff, including 1 specific to Student Services Staff and 1 with ideaWorks
- 6 sessions with Students, including 1 with the MSA and 1 with MCACES
- 3 sessions with program advisory committees
- 1 with the Aboriginal Education Council
- 1 with Deans from McMaster
- 1 with Directors and Superintendents from local School Boards
- 1 with Hamilton Economic Development

The plan was then developed collaboratively, based on this input, through four sessions open to faculty and staff, one session with the Senior Management Team, and one session with the Board of Governors.

This report is the culmination of all of the above.

