

Subsection 3.5: Defining Inter-institutional Programs

Considerations:

The findings from Phase 1 reveal a variety of terms in use in Canada to describe inter-institutional programs; nine are for joint and collaborative programs alone. This variety is causing confusion and there is demonstrable evidence that it is creating problems for researchers when analyzing Canada's success in the area of inter-institutional partnerships.

It is the aspiration of Phase 2 to establish a taxonomy of terminology to facilitate common term usage across Canada in the area of inter-institutional program definitions while also ensuring awareness of those terms that have been approved by governing bodies. Plus, prior research suggests a partial framework for resolving this area of consideration.

This section is intended to illuminate consensus where possible to facilitate the development of inter-institutional program nomenclature.

Online Survey Questions:

The following questions are embedded within the online survey accompanying this Consultation Document. They are provided below to facilitate advance reflection.

1. Do the following definitions apply to your local context?

The following definitions are attributed to Dr. Knight's work, *Joint and Double Degree Programmes: Vexing Questions and Issues*,¹ in which she offered these definitions for international collaborative degree programs. We are interested in determining if these definitions also resonate in the national context.

- Consecutive credential program - "A consecutive ... program awards two different qualifications at consecutive levels upon completion of the collaborative program requirements established by the partner institutions."
- Double credential program - "A double [credential] program awards **two individual qualifications** at equivalent levels upon completion of the collaborative program requirements established by the two partner institutions."
- Joint program - "A joint [credential] program awards **one joint qualification** upon completion of the collaborative program requirements established by the partner institution."
- Multiple credential program - "A multiple [credential] program awards three or more individual qualifications at equivalent levels upon completion of the collaborative program requirements established by the three or more partner institutions."

Background:

Phase 1 of the national study indicates the most popular terms used to describe transfer credit programs include the following: degree/diploma completion programs; joint programs; collaborative programs; and dual/double credential programs. Table 5 provides a summary of the findings from a review of glossaries in use at institutions and allied organizations.

¹ Knight, J. (2008). *Joint and Double Degree Programmes: Vexing Questions and Issues*. London: The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education

Table 1: Terms Used to Describe Program Types in Canada

Term	Definition
Bridge course / program	Course or set of courses that students take to fill gaps in their learning from one program in order to enter another program, for example from a diploma to a degree program in the same area of study. Some bridging courses/programs are designed to prepare internationally educated professionals to write certification examinations to practice in Canada.
Conjoint Program	A program of study, offered by a postsecondary institution that is affiliated, federated or collaborating with a university, which is approved by the university's Senate or equivalent body, and for which a single degree document signed by both Institutions is awarded.
Integrated Program	Two or more distinct, approved, free-standing programs of instruction, in one or more institutions, amalgamated into one program of instruction for enrolment, curricula, examination, and administrative purposes and for which the eligible enrolment is reported on the basis of the institution-of-registration. The program of instruction is planned, maintained, and delivered by one or more institutions from each sector and culminates in one credential, normally a baccalaureate degree.
Joint Degree Program	A program of study offered by two or more universities or by a university and a college or institute, including an Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, in which successful completion of the requirements is confirmed by a single degree document .
	A joint degree program awards one joint qualification upon completion of the collaborative program requirements established by the partner Institutions.
	"A joint degree program awards one joint qualification upon completion of the collaborative program requirements established by the partner institution." ²
Joint / Integrated Program	A program offered co-operatively by university and college partners. May integrate two or more distinct programs also offered independently by partner institutions. Students study at both institutions either sequentially or concurrently .
	Graduates receive one or more credentials from partner institutions, for example, a student might receive both a diploma in media arts and a degree in communications. May sometimes describe an educational program developed and delivered by two different academic programs or departments at the same institution, or concurrent programs offered within the same institution.
Collaborative and Joint Degree Programs	Collaborative programs are offered jointly by a college and a partnering university. Students may earn either one or two credentials - one from the college and/or one from the university.
Collaborative Program	Generally, an academic or vocational program of instruction that has been developed cooperatively by university and college partners to facilitate learners' efficient progression towards one or more credentials for which the learning has been achieved in both a college and a university. Collaborative programs of instruction ensure that learning that has already been achieved will be recognized by the receiving institution according to the terms outlined in the articulation agreement. There are a number of models for collaborative programs of instruction.
	Programs offered jointly by two or more institutions.

² Knight, J. (2008). Joint and Double Degree Programmes: Vexing Questions and Issues. London: The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education.

Term	Definition
	<p>A collaborative program is an intra-university graduate program that provides an additional multidisciplinary experience for students enrolled in and completing the degree requirements for one of a number of approved programs. Students meet the admission requirements of and register in the participating (or “home”) program but complete, in addition to the degree requirements of that program, the additional requirements specified by the collaborative program. The degree conferred is that of the home program, and the completion of the collaborative program is indicated by a transcript notation indicating the additional specialization that has been attained (e.g., MA in Political Science with specialization in American Studies).</p> <p>An academic program offered jointly by university and college partners. The partners have agreed on a defined sharing of responsibility for curriculum that is recognized by both institutions as earning credit toward one or more credentials. Some collaborative programs offer graduates a diploma and a degree.</p>
Degree Completion Program	A program offered by a college or university that awards transfer credit to graduates of a college diploma or advanced diploma program in order to enter a degree program at a specified level. May require completion of bridge courses where applicable. Specifies additional credits necessary to qualify for a degree. Subject to conditions such as academic standing or minimum grades. Example: College Advanced Diploma in Chemical Engineering Technology to Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
Consecutive Degree Program	“A consecutive degree program awards two different qualifications at consecutive levels upon completion of the collaborative program requirements established by the partner institutions.” ³
University Transfer Program	<p>Several college systems offer university transfer programs, providing the first two years of a university undergraduate program. Universities and colleges also cooperate on integrated programs for which graduates receive both a degree and a diploma. Cooperative education is part of many programs, with work placements being a requirement in addition to academic study.</p> <p>First 2 years of a degree level program taken at a college before transferring to a university of private college with accredited degree program.</p>
Multiple Degree Program	“A multiple degree program awards three or more individual qualifications at equivalent levels upon completion of the collaborative program requirements established by the three or more partner institutions.” ⁴
Dual Credential Program	A program of study offered by two or more universities or by a university and a college or institute, including Institutes of Technology and Advanced Learning, in which successful completion of the requirements is confirmed by a separate and different degree/diploma document being awarded by each of the participating institutions.
Dual Degree Program	Two separate awards from two institutions. Also called a double degree.
Double Degree Program	“A double degree program awards two individual qualifications at equivalent levels upon completion of the collaborative program requirements established by the two partner institutions.” ⁵

³ Knight, J., 2008

⁴ Knight, J., 2008

⁵ Knight, J., 2008

Term	Definition
	A double degree program awards two individual qualifications at equivalent levels upon completion of the collaborative program requirements established by the two partner institutions.