



MAXIMIZING COLLEGE CONNECTIONS TO RECRUIT NON DIRECT STUDENTS COLLEGE UPGRADING

College Upgrading Facts and Figures

- ? College Upgrading has been continuously delivered by colleges since 1964. It is currently being delivered either by colleges alone or in partnership in more than **200 communities** across Ontario.
- ? In 2004, system wide approval of the Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) program, delivered by all College Upgrading programs, was granted by MTCU. ACE is accepted by colleges and Apprenticeship as OSSD equivalent for the purposes of admission. ACE is also recognized by a growing number of Ontario employers for hiring and promotion purposes including VALE INCO, General Motors, Proctor and Gamble, Hydro One, and the OPP.
- ? In 2006-2007, **16,275** individuals participated in college upgrading through the provincially funded LBS/AU stream of delivery.
- ? Many colleges continue to deliver upgrading as a fee-paying activity. In 2007-2008 this activity totaled **341.0957 Weighted Funding Units**.
- ? Detailed information on the profile of LBS/AU funded participants is available. (A sample of the individual college report available each June is attached) In 06-07, **83% had a goal of further training and education**; 26% were on social assistance; 46% were employed or had recent attachment to the workforce
- ? College Upgrading programs are delivered on a continuous intake basis year round, days, evenings and weekends, fulltime and part time. There is no charge for books or tuition and financial support is available for child care and transportation costs for those who qualify.
- ? In 2007-2008, almost 50,000 individuals participated in the broader delivery system which includes community based organizations and school boards servicing Anglophone, Francophone, Native and Deaf Learners

Movement to College Postsecondary

Currently it is only possible to track the success of individuals moving from upgrading into postsecondary at the same institution in which they pursued their upgrading studies. It is not possible to accurately record movement to a different college, or participation in part time, continuing education or distance postsecondary programming. Consequently the conversion percentage is conservative.

- ? Since 1995, the CSC has reported on the success of upgrading students who move on to fulltime postsecondary programs in the *Prepared for Success* report.
- ? **Conversion** of ACE-level students to fulltime ps at the same college is **37.4%**.
- ? Program selection: 23% Health Sciences, 21% Technology, 6% Business, 13% Social Services, 12% GAS, 10% Other, 5% Trades and Skills
- ? **80%** of upgrading graduates were successful in the first semester of postsecondary; the provincially averaged GPA for all programs is 3.01 or better

Tips and Suggestions

Recognize the extensive experience and knowledge which upgrading managers, faculty and counsellors have in assisting and advising non direct entrants by including them in college committees developing new programming, delivery, counselling and outreach initiatives

Identify strategies to encourage the conversion of college upgrading students to postsecondary students. Many colleges have initiated the following effective techniques:

- organizing postsecondary information sessions for upgrading students,
- enabling qualified upgrading students to take one postsecondary course per term at no cost,
- granting transfer credits and advanced standing where applicable for upgrading courses,
- promoting postsecondary communications links with upgrading using postsecondary faculty and students,
- ensuring that upgrading students have access to all college services.

Refer postsecondary applicants who lack the prerequisites or grades for acceptance to a college upgrading program to address the gaps in their qualifications.

Take advantage of the new ACE Distance programming by suggesting that unsuccessful applicants can address any deficiencies by enrolling in the required on-line ACE course at your college.

Promote the success and subsequent retention of struggling postsecondary students by enabling them to access the goal focused, flexible, modularized and free programming available through upgrading.

Ensure that college staff responsible for referring, advising and admitting postsecondary applicants are well informed about college upgrading programs.

Ensure that upgrading staff have the most current college materials particularly information about new and flexible postsecondary program opportunities.

Tap into the extensive community linkages which Academic Upgrading programs have in your communities. These linkages include other program deliverers, referring agencies like Ontario Works and WSIB as well as personal and family support agencies like the United Way and family counselling organizations.

Take advantage of the detailed statistics on college upgrading students available provincially, and at your college when designing brochures, advertising and web pages.

For more information about Upgrading at your college contact
the Upgrading Manager

For provincial information go to
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