

Education Council – Motions Carried September 14, 2023

Executive: N Fassina, A Hay, C Morcom, Y Moritz, M K Oliver
Deans: J Anderson, A Gibson, B Gillett, C Hall, J Lister, J Ragsdale, S Speers, Halia Valladares Montemayor
Associate Deans: K Douglas, S Josephson, D Marques, C Newitt, M Powell, A Pulvermacher, K Rempel, L Thurnheer, J Rouse, W Wheeler
Continuing Studies: J Gorman, D Greebe
Administrative Assistants: L Berntzen, J Buitenhuis, J Campbell, L Foster, A Geoffrey, A Grzegorzewski, J Hansen, A Harden, T Harding, K Hojnocki, M Johnson, M Lowry, A March, J McGee, L Russell, M Scharf, T Jassar
International Education: G Shuster
Registrar's Office: T Clarke, L Lillies, S Madarasz, L Rozniak, I Wheeler
College Relations: J Goodwin
Library: R Tyner
Student Services: J Coble
OC Students Society: Presidents, OC Student Union and Vernon Student Association
Education Council: J Garrett

Education Council met on September 14, 2023 and approved the following:

Academic Courses

Trades and Apprenticeship

New courses:

1. RIT 100 Foundational Skills for Residential Insulators

Proposal Rationale

During extensive consultation with employers, subject matter experts, industry stakeholders and suppliers, foundational skills were highlighted as a key component for this micro-credential. This course includes a variety of soft skills that are essential to productive employees. Based on previous workforce development projects, employer feedback highlighted their appreciation for the inclusion of soft skills and essential skills to ensure learners were well-rounded potential employees.

Internally Trades and Apprenticeship has been consulted and is support of this new program and its related courses. All consultation information is in the overall program proposal.

2. RIT 101 Health and Safety in insulation Work

Proposal Rationale

Safety is critical in all realms of trades related work but it is crucial for residential insulators to have a safety first mindset. During consultation, industry stakeholders and employers identified a number of safety components that would be required in this micro-credential. Safety is emphasized throughout the whole micro-credential as well, but this course will provide a strong safety mindset for learners.

Internally Trades and Apprenticeship has been consulted and is support of this new program and its related courses. All consultation information is in the overall program proposal.

3. RIT 102 Building Science Fundamentals and the Building Envelope

Proposal Rationale

Changes in the industry including targeted building envelope improvements, higher performing products and new approaches make it important to have the knowledge of building science and building codes. This content was deemed important to include in this micro-credential by employers and industry subject matter experts. The movement to insulation being a more technical job facilitates the need to include building science and building envelope information. Consultation with employers, industry stakeholders and subject matter experts facilitated the inclusion of the building science and building envelope topics. Insulators need to have a fundamental understanding of these topic areas to be effective installers. Installation is moving to be a very technical occupation and this course supports the knowledge needed to enhance the employability of graduates.

Internally Trades and Apprenticeship has been consulted and is support of this new program and its related courses. All consultation information is in the overall program proposal.

4. RIT 103 Application of Insulation in Residential / Multi-Family Construction

Proposal Rationale

Proper insulation product knowledge and application techniques contribute to quality installation. Employers want to ensure their employees fully understand the components, the rationale and application for the major insulation products in the industry. In addition, providing the base knowledge of estimating and cost analysis helps employees in this industry understand the importance of quality and efficiency for projects. Consultation contributed to the topics included in this core course.

Internally Trades and Apprenticeship has been consulted and is support of this new program and its related courses. All consultation information is in the overall program proposal.

5. RIT 104 Specialty Products in Residential and Multi-Family Construction

Proposal Rationale

The insulation industry products evolve and include a variety of speciality products for a variety of uses. This course will provide knowledge and experience with specialty products used for a myriad of uses that are covered. This course provides a foundation in specialty products that make learners more employable as they have a wider variety of product knowledge. Consultation supported the inclusion of this content for the micro-credential.

Internally Trades and Apprenticeship has been consulted and is support of this new program and its related courses. All consultation information is in the overall program proposal.

6. RIT 105 Spray Foam Application

Proposal Rationale

Spray foam application is used in a myriad of insulation applications. Many times spray foam and other types of insulation are used together. Including spray foam application as a course in this micro-credential will enhance the employability of the learner but also provide industry employers with a more well-rounded employee.

Internally Trades and Apprenticeship has been consulted and is support of this new program and its related courses. All consultation information is in the overall program proposal.

7. RIT 106 Insulation Workshops

Proposal Rationale

There is a variety of other content that would benefit learners in this micro-credential and this workshop course allows inclusion of additional content that doesn't necessarily fit under other courses. Providing workshops that will be current and relevant, learners will gain additional knowledge to augment their knowledge.

Internally Trades and Apprenticeship has been consulted and is in support of this new program and its related courses. All consultation information is in the overall program proposal.

Academic Programs

Trades and Apprenticeship

Programs

Revised program:

1. Pastry Arts Certificate

Proposal Rationale

To bring the Admission Requirements for the Pastry Arts program in line with Culinary Arts, as well as the vast majority of post secondary institutes in British Columbia, we would require students to submit a valid FOODSAFE Level 1 certificate.

Under Admission requirements, The Math requirement was updated to reflect current prerequisites.

(Refer to Kuali for complete proposal rationale.)

2. Residential Insulation Technician

Proposal Rationale

In 2017, Okanagan College was approached by Community Futures North Okanagan regarding local insulation employers who were having difficulty finding qualified and trained employees. CFNO connected Continuing Studies with local employers in the North Okanagan and CS developed a package of courses to train individuals with little or no experience to become qualified residential insulators. This workforce development opportunity ended up with three successful Project Based Labour Market Training Programs funded through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. As a result, Okanagan College became recognized regionally, provincially and even nationally for its Residential Insulation Training. Employers from across the country and Pacific Northwest USA contacted Continuing Studies looking for students of RIT. These projects were offered through a Continuing Studies and Trades & Apprenticeship collaboration and each cohort had solid success including 90-100% employment rates.

Since 2017, it was identified that there is no formal program anywhere in Canada or the Pacific Northwest to prepare people for careers in residential insulation installation. There is a Heat and Frost formal trade and while there are transferable skills, this trade is very different from residential insulation installation.

Changing building codes, commitment to net-zero building and new insulation requirements have created renewed growth in the insulation industry, not only for new builds but also for renovations and retrofits. However, many contractors are unable to take advantage of these opportunities due to a severe lack of qualified staff. There is also a movement in the industry to improve insulation contractor installation practices in general. OC's Residential Insulation Training is recognized by industry leaders as the highest level of education in Canada to train quality installers and CS continues to receive regular requests from employers across the country for participants who have completed this training. This micro-credential provides the requisite training

that aligns with the industry direction. Included the Home Performance Stakeholders Council's insulation roadmap that clearly identifies the need for this type of micro-credential. The Home Performance Stakeholders Council is a non-profit organization that works with BC's home improvement industry sectors to help grow the home performance industry into a sustainable and profitable market segment in the province. The HPSC has and continues to demonstrate support for all of OC's workforce development proposals as well as the proposal to develop an RIT micro-credential. HSPC includes an insulation sector council comprised of contractors, trades associations, industry experts and advisors from throughout the province.

Fast forward to November 2022 where Okanagan College submitted an application to the Canadian Colleges for Resilient Recovery to develop a Residential Insulation Technician Micro-Credential. OC just signed the contract to design and deliver a pilot of the RIT micro-credential by March 31, 2024.

(Refer to KualI for complete proposal rationale.)