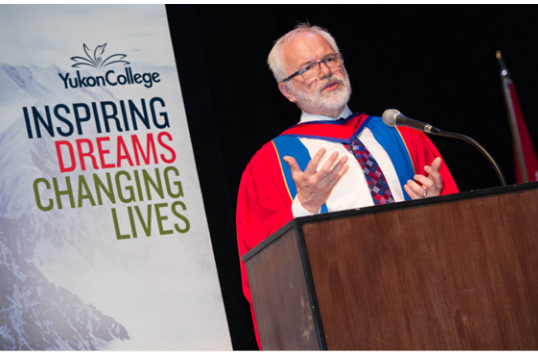


ACADEMIC PLAN 2016-2021

Building the North's Future



*Our hearts are rooted in our history
Our eyes are focused on the future*



This is an exciting and important time in the history of Yukon College, as we transform into a degree-granting institution and ultimately a university. This Academic Plan supports that journey by guiding new programming, student success and quality assurance activities at Yukon College for the next five years.

Our goal is to prepare Yukon College (YC) for future university status while retaining and expanding our usual offerings in trades, upgrading and vocational learning. In the process, we will better integrate all our educational programs with northern-focused research. We will build stronger connections between all our campuses, and improve student access to programming. We will maintain strong and respectful relationships with Yukon First Nations. And we will develop new programming related to our thematic pillars of climate change, indigenous self-determination and governance, sustainable resource development and innovation and more.

As we evolve into a "hybrid" university—retaining some of the characteristics of a college but with the expanded academic opportunities of a university—Yukon University (YukonU) will continue to help build a healthy and prosperous North through relevant, innovative and inclusive education and research. Student success is crucial to this mission: a key component in the sustainable development of the North, meeting the needs of communities and industries and supporting capacity development within First Nations.

The overarching mission of this Academic Plan is to prepare students to work, live and thrive as citizens and leaders in their communities, their First Nations, the North and beyond.



Deborah Bartlette
Vice President Academic and Student Services

GOALS OF THE ACADEMIC PLAN

As Yukon College transitions to degree-granting and eventually university status, we remain committed to serving the Yukon and the North. To that end, the Academic Plan is shaped around the following five goals.

STUDENT SUCCESS

"Success creates hope," noted a respondent in a recent YC community survey. We agree, which is why equipping our students to flourish is our highest imperative as an educational institution. Student success does not mean giving everyone a passing grade, nor does it mean lowering standards and expectations in the classroom.

Instead, it means having systems in place to support students at every stage of their academic journeys, from application to graduation. Regardless of what path they take at YC/YukonU, we will help our students gain the confidence, knowledge and skills they need to get wherever they want to go.



INDIGENIZATION



Yukon College has worked hard over decades to build strong and respectful partnerships with Yukon First Nations, who have helped guide and inform our programming and services. We believe everyone living or working in the North should appreciate and understand the rich culture, deep history and modern-day treaties of Yukon First Nations, which is why all students, faculty and staff at YC must complete a core competency course in indigenous self-governance. As we become a university, we intend to remain a leader in indigenous education by integrating traditional knowledge and perspectives into all our programming. We will also build capacity for indigenization throughout the institution, not least by establishing mechanisms to hire elders as adjunct faculty.

NORTHERN NEEDS WITHIN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

At Yukon College, we recognize that 'The North' goes beyond the geographical designation of 'above 60 degrees' latitude. Rather, the North represents a way of life. We live much closer to the land than our southern counterparts, with indigenous traditions, culture and self-government informing our daily existence. Yet the global economy and technologies such as internet have made our world smaller and more interconnected than ever. Academic programming and research activities at YC/YukonU will continue to address the social, environmental and economic needs of the North, while preparing students to live and work anywhere in a globalized world.





ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR NORTHERNERS

Over Yukon College's history, we have demonstrated a commitment to education and training across the territory. YC/YukonU will ensure that relevant education is accessible to students throughout the North, particularly in remote and indigenous communities. Over the next five years, we will increase the number of courses and programs delivered through online, distance and blended learning approaches, as well as through our 13 community campuses. And because different educational paths begin at different stages, we will offer students multiple entry points into all our programs, ensuring that every course of study opens up further opportunities for employment or education.



NORTHERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Research and academic programming at YC/YukonU will contribute to the economic development of individuals, communities and the Yukon more broadly. Our education and training will build on our strengths and enhance our ability to serve our communities, preparing graduates for areas of future growth and for changing conditions in the North. In time, our programs will attract students from across northern Canada and the Circumpolar region, creating a workforce trained in the North to stay in the North.





GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The 2016–2021 Academic Plan is informed by Yukon College's institutional values, Strategic Plan and niche programming areas, as well as by a number of guiding principles. These include:

Flexibility. This plan is a living document. Even as it informs the College's academic and research programming for the next five years, it will remain open to revisions as new opportunities and needs arise.

New programming. New programming will relate to niche programming areas and will provide the breadth of offerings required to be a university. We will develop courses and programs based on feasibility and sustainability, and seek interdisciplinary linkages between new and existing programs.

Integrated research and classroom learning. Research and learning will be strongly integrated, enabling students and faculty to participate in research and scholarly activities in all areas of programming.

Improved access to education. We will improve educational accessibility through flexible delivery options, open-access educational resources, multiple entry and exit points for students in our programs and strategic partnerships with other institutions.

NEW PROGRAMMING

From degrees in indigenous governance to millwright apprenticeships, new programming at YC/YukonU will focus on 'made in the North' solutions and innovations while preparing graduates to succeed in any context. Through offering high quality programs and a dynamic, supportive student experience, we will be the institution of choice for Yukoners and other northerners in the areas of study we offer. Depending on feasibility and sustainability studies, proposed new programming for 2016-2021 may include:

New degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Governance
- Bachelor of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Arts in Northern Studies
- Bachelor of Education

New programs:

- Leadership and Professional Development
- New Academic and Skill Development/
Drop-In Centre Model

New/updated certificates and diplomas:

- Aviation Management
- Climate Change Policy
- Culinary Arts
- Northern Building Science
- Small Business in Arts/Culture
- Northern Environmental Management
- Traditional Pursuits
- Yukon Substitute Teachers
- Millwright
- Alternative Energy Technician
- Food Security or Northern Agriculture



A CULTURE OF QUALITY: ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE AND ASSESSMENT



The transition from college to university involves more than a change of name and the offering of our own degrees. It also represents a shift in culture, particularly where academic governance and quality assurance standards are concerned. While we already have high quality teaching and training, as well as innovative research, our shift to university status will allow us to update and advance our governance structures, recruitment strategies and accountability mechanisms.

As we become a university, we will shift toward a collegial model of governance, in which the faculty play a key role in decision-making. Other new “hybrid” universities in British Columbia and Alberta have provided guidance in how to develop and strengthen policies and procedures for this mode of academic governance. YukonU will also work to attract and retain new faculty by enhancing resources for professional development, including through improving our library to meet current and future educational and research needs as well as requirements for university status.

With the goal of continuously improving our teaching and the student experience at Yukon College/YukonU, we will conduct regular reviews of all of our programs and services. We will be transparent with the results of these assessments, and also with progress made in implementing improvements. Such regular, systematic review processes will ensure that YukonU remains responsive to the needs of the North while meeting internal and external quality assurance standards, leading to overall excellence in post-secondary education.



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