

Understanding the Ontario College System

Topics covered in the course will include:

- background to the development of the college system in Ontario as an alternative form of higher education
- mandate – social and economic purpose
- significant legislation and changes
- political policies and economic drivers affecting the system
- strategic mandate agreements
- how the colleges are governed and receive funding
- what credentials are offered by Ontario's public colleges
- how this system differs from K-12 and universities
- how programs are developed and approved
- how teaching staff is selected and developed
- what accountability mechanisms are in place
- challenges and emerging trends
- and what lies ahead.

Instructor: Kristi Harrison, Hons. B.Ed, M. Ed, Ed D. Candidate (2017)

Kristi Harrison began her involvement with the Ontario College system as a part time faculty member in 1984. She joined the system as a full time professor in 1987 and taught in Toronto for 12 years. Throughout her college career, she held the roles of professor, coordinator, curriculum consultant, was seconded to various taskforces within and external to the colleges, became Dean of a teaching and learning centre, dean of a school of business and finally an associate vice president, responsible for a full range of academic support services. She worked extensively with college partners in the K-12, university and international education sectors. She also served on the Boards of two college-related associations, before starting her own consultancy in April 2016.