

Recommendations For The Inaugural OERu Credential

Diagram by Paul Stacey, summarized from BCcampus SCoPE Designing OERu Credentials online seminar discussions Aug 29 - Sept 13, 2011
Entire Designing OERu Credentials discussion available at <http://scope.bccampus.ca/mod/forum/view.php?id=8953>

Inaugural OERu Credential(s)

Bachelor of General Studies

- mix of humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, math, ...
- liberal education and employability skills focus
- provide tracks/specializations: a technology track, an education and/or education technology track, a community and economic development track, nursing track, science specialization, business, ...
- flexible, includes elective credits
- 120 credits
- up to 60 to 75 credits competency based portfolio PLAR
- 45 to 60 credits through OER (cohort, local facilitator, challenge exams/portfolio)
- ladder certificate/diploma programs

Associate of Science

- a lot of existing OER available

Bachelor of Education & Bachelor of Nursing

- big need in developing countries where majority of existing teachers & nurses are under-qualified
- non-competitive feel to the subject matter, both are "helping" professions, always in need of new people with aptitude and commitment.
- regulated professions challenging to design OER programs that meets regulatory requirements

Diploma of Arts

- University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Diploma of Arts (DART) a potentially useful starting point
- equivalent of the first year of study (Freshman year) of a Bachelor of Arts Degree
- introduction to Arts disciplines providing a basic qualification for credit transfer to other programs
- transdisciplinary foundation year with a broad-based array of laddering possibilities
- specialization streams such as nursing, education, or business with several of the OER/courses common to all three or at least two of such areas while also allowing for an Arts diploma. Quite a few lower level courses that are useful (core or elective) for regulated professions are generic. Consult with international credentialing services in various higher education jurisdictions to see which courses are broadly accepted internationally for starters.

Masters of Education

- credentialing for OER-based teaching and learning
- addresses OER creation, use, reuse, assessment, evaluation, pedagogy concerns
- Athabasca University's Centre for Distance Education will be offering a course in Open Learning, focusing on OER and using OER. This is part of a certificate in Instructional Design and/or the MEd in DE

Go Forward OERu Credential Criteria

Is politically safe but scalable

Adopts a path of least resistance

Operational within reasonable time frame - eg. one year

Produces non-zero sum outcomes for all OERu member institutions

Partners share and collaborate on assemblies of courses largely from existing OER

Qualification is on the books of anchor partners & registered with country National Qualifications Framework