Information about Changes implemented in the 2020/2021 Manuals

Context
Consistent with its Internal Quality Assurance Policy, the Board’s Manuals are updated annually. The Handbooks and the two sets of Submission Guidelines (new and renewal) were combined into one document—a PEQAB Manual—in 2018. Leading up to the publication of the Manuals, the PEQAB Secretariat had engaged in a full review of all PEQAB Standards and Benchmarks. In addition, the Board approved an Expedited Renewal Process for College Degree Programs and the accompanying Manual in January 2018. Due to the recent extensive review of the PEQAB Standards and Benchmarks, this year’s updates are minor with one exception: The merging of the Manual for Ontario Colleges with the Manual for Public Organizations.

The main reasons for the merger (approved by the Board in August 2020) are as follows:
• Recent changes to the PEQAB Standards, especially the elimination of certain criteria that only applied to Ontario Colleges (e.g. restrictions around the use of program nomenclatures) have resulted in fewer and fewer differences between the College and the Public Manuals.
• Ontario Colleges offer Honours Baccalaureate Degrees—a credential recognized by the OQF that is to exactly the same standards as the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (UDLEs)–. Being featured in one Manual together with all other public institutions reinforces that Ontario College degrees are equivalent in quality to those offered by Ontario universities.
• Reducing the Manuals from three to two (one for public institutions including colleges, one for private institutions) provides an additional simplification and fits with PEQAB’s goal to make its website, its processes and criteria as user-friendly as practicable.

Changes approved by the Board to the Manuals:
• College Nomenclatures: Elimination of a footnote restricting College baccalaureate degree nomenclatures, allowing them to be reviewed based only on the Nomenclature Standard that applies to all applicants. (November 2019)
• Use of the Term University: Added clarification around PEQAB’s criteria for the use of the terms “University” and “University College” in the names of out-of-province postsecondary institutions (both public and private) in delivering degree programs in Ontario under consent. (January 2020)
• Criteria for awarding Honorary degrees: Merging the separate criteria that existed for awarding Honorary Doctorates (Public and Private Institutions) and Honorary Bachelor Degrees in Applied Studies (Ontario Colleges) into one. (August 2020)
• Requirements for “Course Materials”*: Replacement of section on requirements for Course Outlines/Teaching and Learning Plans1 with new/clarified requirements on “Course Materi-

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1 Appendices 9.7 for Colleges, 10.7 for Public Institutions 12.7 for Private Institutions in the 2019/2020 Manuals.
als” (i.e. syllabi, teaching learning plans) in the "Documentation Commonly Submitted" section of the Program Content Standard. The new section provides more clarity around the information and detail expected for the syllabi and teaching learning plans.

**Additional Editorial Changes** include

- Reference to the possibility of virtual/video site visits and the fact that review costs are lower if virtual site visits occur.
- Addition of a sample agenda for virtual site visits.
- Updated payment information.
- An updated section on Board meetings mentioning the meetings frequency and the possibility for ad hoc additional meetings.
- Information about the option to strike a prospective or pre-PAC (Program Advisory Committee) for new programs.