**Flow: Curricular Transformation Initiative
FAQs for Undergraduate Students**

What is *Flow*?

Flow is a university-wide initiative to create an inclusive and sustainable studio-based learning experience that builds on the unique strengths of OCAD U's art and design education.

What do we mean by "inclusive and sustainable"?

OCAD U has amazing faculty and we attract incredible students who go on to do amazing things. Our programs have been carefully thought out to make sure you are able to build your knowledge and skills over four years. Still, there are many barriers to learning for those who are diverse and have diverse learning needs.

Flow puts our commitments to inclusivity and equity, outlined in our *Academic Plan: Transforming Student Experience 2017-2022*, into action.

Flow will ensure we can continue in a sustainable way to deliver studio-based education that works for all students. This is what we're good at as an institution, applying creativity and design thinking to address complex issues.

1. **I've heard my program is changing due to *Flow*. What will *Flow do*?**
   - Degrees will be more flexible and easier to complete.
   - You'll have more choice and self-direction over your learning.
   - You'll have space for completing minors or pursuing interests in other areas.
   - It will make it easier for you to get into courses in other programs.
   - Courses will be more accessible and inclusive of diverse knowledges and voices.

2. **How will *Flow* do this?**
   - When *Flow* takes effect in your program, there will be:
     - Fewer specifically required courses
     - More open electives
     - Fewer prerequisites
     - Fewer courses with priority registration
     - No specifically required courses in 4th Year, giving you more flexibility to choose electives and pursue other interests
     - Greater mix of small and larger courses, making it easier to get into courses outside of your program

3. **How will these changes affect me?**
   - Some programs have already been through the *Flow* process and those changes come into effect in the 2020-21 academic year.
   - Other programs will go through *Flow* over the next three years (see question 5 for the schedule).
   - Students in programs affected this fall will receive new program guides in March 2020, and will see how their completed courses map into the new program guide via 'My Progress' in Self-Service (under Student Planning).
   - New and revised courses will appear in the 2020-2021 course calendar.

4. **Have you consulted students about these changes?**
   - Programs implementing *Flow* changes are doing so through our routine program review process. This includes collecting feedback from students about their programs through surveys and focus groups.
   - We held a student conversation in late January 2020 that generated good discussion. Students raised important questions that have helped us in developing our communications and FAQs.
   - Students in programs that will go through Flow in future years will be invited to participate in surveys and focus groups.

5. **When will my program be affected?**

   2020-2021
   - Integrated Media
   - Graphic Design
   - Indigenous Visual Culture
   - Advertising
   - Digital Futures
   - Creative Writing
   - Printmaking*
   - Publications (Cross-Disciplinary Art)*

   * Note: A new merged program, Printmaking & Publications, takes effect in 2020-2021 and current students will be able to transfer into it.

   2021-2022
   - Life Studies (Cross-Disciplinary Art)
   - Photography
   - Industrial Design
   - Criticism & Curatorial Practice
   - Environmental Design
   - Illustration
   - Sculpture/Installation

2022-2023
• Drawing & Painting
• Expanded Animation (DPXA, IMXA)

2023-2024
• Material Art and Design
• Visual and Critical Studies

6. **How will I get the knowledge and skills I need if there are fewer program requirements?**
   • Most courses in your program will still be offered, although some may be offered less frequently or in alternation with other program options.
   • Some courses have been merged with or developed into new courses.
   • As a result, you'll have fewer required courses and more ability to choose courses that will give you the knowledge and skills you need.

7. **If there are no required courses in fourth year, what will happen to capstone courses (e.g. Thesis)?**
   • Capstone courses such as Thesis, Directed Studio and Workshop will still be options available to all students as per their programs – however, now you will have a choice. For example, if you want to do more experiential learning or an independent study, you can.

8. **With so much choice, how will I know what courses are best for me or my career goals?**
   • The [Student Advising Centre](#) will be ready to aid you in your planning.
   • An important part of these changes is to give you more ability to direct your own path towards achieving your specific education and career goals.

9. **Will there be new requirements I have to complete?**
   • No. We've worked very carefully to ensure there are no new requirements for currently enrolled students.
   • New program guides for the 2020-21 impacted programs will be sent to students prior to summer course registration. This will ensure that no student takes courses that are no longer required, unless they want to, as part of their options/electives.

10. **What about courses I took that are no longer required in my program?**
    • Courses you've already taken will, for the most part, either meet or be equivalent to any new program requirements, ensuring there are no new requirements for any currently enrolled students.
    • Some other former program requirements you've fulfilled may be counted towards your electives.

11. I heard that *Flow* will mean larger class sizes. Is this true?

- Even with the changes, OCAD U will still be a leader in Ontario with a low student-to-faculty ratio.
- OCAD U already delivers courses with larger enrolments, such as some of our Liberal Arts & Sciences courses and there will be more in all undergraduate Faculties as a result of *Flow.* This is to ensure we're able to continue to offer smaller courses where they are best suited.
- In some cases, larger course enrolments will make it easier for you to get into electives you want to take in other program areas, especially courses in high demand.

12. How will Flow affect my ability to graduate?

- If you will have completed 20 credits by the end of 2019-20, but have outstanding requirements to meet, check your new program guide, as you may be able to graduate this year.

13. Who can I talk to if I have questions?

- If you have questions about a new program guide for the 2020-2021 academic year, you can contact the Student Advising Centre: MCA 266, 100 McCaul St. (drop in hours: M to F, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.); contact: 416-977-6000, Ext. 4022 or advising@ocadu.ca
- Questions about your degree audit or program changes should be directed to the Office of the Registrar at regservices@ocadu.ca.
- Your Program Chair can advise you on upcoming curricular renewal engagement opportunities for your program if it is scheduled to go through Flow in the future.
- If you have questions about Flow process please email us at flow@ocadu.ca.