

OLTC Program Monthly Report

July 2021



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Program Director's Note

On May 18th, 2021, I was formally asked to join the Maple League and, specifically, the Online Learning and Technology Consultant (OLTC) Program. After interviewing with Dr. Jessica Riddell, Scott Stoddard, and Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon, they placed in my hands (and the hands of our phenomenal Project Manager, Lauren Boulton) a project they had built just a year before in response to a global pandemic that encouraged us all to re-think traditional modes of design and delivery.

Our aim is to see how this program, built to respond to a particular crisis, can help us redefine the “normal” as we respond to messages about returning “back to normal.” There is still lots of work to do, but can we continue to add to the improvements we have made in accessibility and flexibility? Can the edu-technologies we have embraced this year out of necessity improve our in-person classrooms? Can we continue to reach the goals of the OLTC Program:

1. Offer individualized support for faculty to enhance student learning experiences (through engagement, community-building, and transformative learning) in person and remotely
2. Provide students with work-integrated learning (WIL) experiences and future-facing skill development (digital literacy, design thinking, creative problem solving, emotional and social intelligence)
3. Help re-imagine a 21st-century liberal education that engages students as key collaborators in the co-design of their university experience.

Since that day in May, the past two months have been filled with introductory meetings to amazing people at Acadia, Bishop's, Mount Allison, and St. Francis Xavier; after leaving a wonderful group of collaborators in the Teaching Commons at York University, it has been a pleasure to create new partnerships with people willing to have conversations about pedagogy and centering students in their own learning.

~ Matthew Dunleavy, Program Director, OLTC Program

University Champions

Part of the success of the Bishop’s OLTC pilot was the inclusion of three unique and equal voices—faculty, IT, and student—in the design and execution of the program. As we expand the program across the four institutions, maintaining this space for localized co-design remains a priority. While we have centralized the program coordination, management, and training, design teams at each institution are central to ensuring its success and that the program meets the needs of faculty, staff, and students.

Bishop’s University

<i>Faculty Champion</i>	<i>IT Champion</i>	<i>Student Champion</i>
Dr. Jasmeen Sidhu	Shahn Nadeau	Cécilia Alain

Mount Allison University

<i>Faculty Champion</i>	<i>IT Champion</i>	<i>Student Champion</i>
Dr. Susie Andrews	Dr. Toni Roberts	Denise Loar

St. Francis Xavier University

<i>Faculty Champion</i>	<i>IT Champion</i>	<i>Student Champion</i>
Dr. Denton Anthony	Dr. Matea Drljejan	Ben Boudreau

Orientation Begins

After a search across the four universities, on July 26th, 2021, we began the orientation for our new cohort of 13 OLTCs. This full-time, two-week orientation provides the OLTCs with foundational training in pedagogy and edu-technology to be prepared to work as partners with faculty on their campus.



Throughout a variety of synchronous sessions, guided and self-guided asynchronous modules, hands-on workshops, and group work with faculty mentors, these OLTCs will cover the following and develop other key transferable skills:

- Accessibility
- Course Planning
- Creative Commons & Copyright
- Critical Empathy
- Critical Reflective Practice
- Culturally Responsive Pedagogies
- Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in the Classroom
- Formative and Summative Assessment
- High-Impact Practices
- Hopeful Pedagogy
- Learning-Centered Syllabi
- Live and Pre-recorded Lecture Capture
- LMS and other edu-technologies
- Resilient Pedagogy
- Universal Design for Learning
- And more!

OLTC Fellows

Continuing in the spirit of Students-as-Partners, we have hired four current and recently graduated Bishop's students—each of which worked as an OLTC during the Bishop's pilot—to assist with the expansion of the OLTC Program. These Fellows have worked closely with Matthew and Lauren to assist with creating the orientation, navigating the logistics of the expansion, assessing the needs of the OLTCs, creating internal and external communication plans, and redesigning our digital footprint.

Sally Cunningham – *Program Design Fellow*

Charlotte Gélinas-Gagné - *Program Design and Logistics Fellow*

Emma Trumble – *Communications Fellow*

Alisha Winter – *Program Design Fellow*

External Funding: Curricular Work-Integrated Learning

One of the (many) strengths of the OLTC Program is our ability to challenge the definition of and norms around Work-Integrated Learning (WIL). The value of WIL is often focused on the benefits of the intern or WIL student placed in an industry role, whereby they develop skills and competencies to add to their CVs and gain valuable experience for their entry or re-entry into the job market. In our program, the students transform alongside the course instructor, classroom, and institution, which reframes the uni-directional benefit of the WIL as mutually transformative.

There are still limits, however, on how many students can be part of this transformative experience. Our solution was to adapt the program and create another avenue for student engagement: a three-credit elective course. The course *Teaching, Pedagogy, and Technology in Courses* will be hosted at Mount Allison and instructed by Dr. Toni Roberts. We are currently finalizing logistics with each university so that the course can be offered as a Maple League course for Acadia, Bishop's, and St. Francis Xavier students. This course provides the same training in pedagogy and edu-technology and gives students a WIL experience that will help them develop key transferable skills.

We sent this course to round 3 of the Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada iHUB funding. This funding stream prioritized “the advancement of, and innovation in [WIL], extend[ing] access to WIL, and ensur[ing] WIL projects are delivered with appropriate quality and learning standards for students.” We are happy to announce that our proposal was successful. We have been **awarded \$180,000** to support 100 students through this course; that support will come via participation bursaries, technology (to keep!), and a symposium for their academic and professional development.

Communications

Blogs


Our Design Fellows—Sally Cunningham and Alisha Winter—have been hard at work publishing [several blogs and micro-blogs](#) about the OLTC program. These blogs have been spotlighting stories from last year showing how the program helped students and faculty, with many blogs focusing on how OLTCs collaborated with instructors to design for delight.

New Website

Our Communications Fellow—Emma Trumble—has been redesigning [our website](#) so that we have a centralized virtual space to share our work and so that the program can serve each of the universities (with individualized sign-up forms to make it easy for course instructors to work with OTLCs at their institution). Our OTLCs will have finished their orientation by August 6th and will be ready to collaborate on your courses. I encourage you to sign up today!

Online Learning and Technology Consultants Log In

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To learn more: Log In

[Click Here](#)

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Sign Up Below!

 <p>Acadia</p> <p>Sign Up</p>	 <p>Bishop's</p> <p>Sign Up</p>
 <p>Mount Allison</p> <p>Sign Up</p>	 <p>St. FX</p> <p>Sign Up</p>

Media Coverage

One of our Bishop's OLTCs, Loch Baillie, wrote about the Program for *Maclean's*. The article is available online [here](#) and will appear in print in Maclean's 2021 Canadian Universities Guidebook.



EDUCATION

Leaning into distance learning

Bishop's student Loch Baillie got a job co-designing virtual classes and discovered ways to make studying from home better—for himself and others

By Loch Baillie
June 17, 2021



Baillie (top right) on a video call with other Bishop's students who were hired to work with professors to design courses for online delivery (Loch Baillie)

Originally from Worcester, Mass., Loch Baillie is a fourth-year honours English literature and French