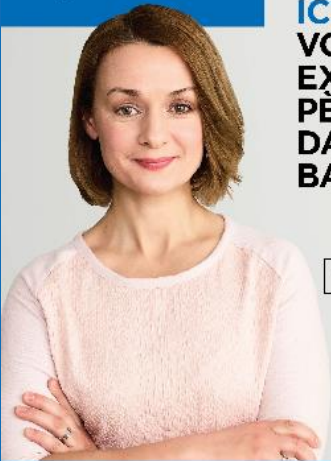




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# Facilitating Life- Long-Learning in Universities: a Québec/Canadian Model.

Christian Blanchette, Dean

Université   
de Montréal

# Plan

**1. Universities for Life-Long-Learning (LLL)**

**2. Stackable Bachelor Degrees :  
a 45 year old model for LLL.**

**3. Comprehensive VPL  
strategies for LLLearners**




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POUR  
CONSTRUIRE  
UN BAC À  
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AU QUÉBEC.

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# Life Long Learning a Challenge for Universities

1. Non-traditional students have various needs and motivations to engage in learning and in university educations.
2. **Non-traditional students (delayed or interrupted studies) and changing pattern of engaging with university education require transformations in university learning offerings.**
3. Universities need to **adapt program offerings, academic regulations** and outlook on **societal needs in program development** to remain "relevant" for life-long-learners and, hence, fully play its role to provide higher learning for all citizen all through their life.



# The University : Engaged in LLL since 1952

## Université de Montréal

- Research intensive university
- Internationally Ranked around 100<sup>th</sup>
- Among the top 3, French language comprehensive universities
- Total: 60 000 distinct students / 45000 Full time equivalents.

## Fac. de l'éducation permanente (FEP)

- **Mission: Provide life-long-learning opportunities to all and access to university to non-traditional students.**
- 70 % study part-time / 30% full time
- 40 % of students already have university degrees (30% Bac, 10% Master + PhD)
- 30 university certificates (all 10-university courses = 1 year of study full time)
- Total:
  - For credit: 13500-15100 distinct students / 4500-5100 Full time equivalents.
- Non-credit: 4000 registrations

# **OPEN FOR NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS AND LIFE-LONG-LEARNERS**

- 1. Programs have to be relevant i.e. rapid impact on learner's career.**
2. Program in short formats with clear learning objectives
- 3. We should recognize all prior learning (formal, informal and non-formal).**
4. We should be able to validate all learning within our university credentials and degrees.

# Education systems vs LLL Friendly Education System

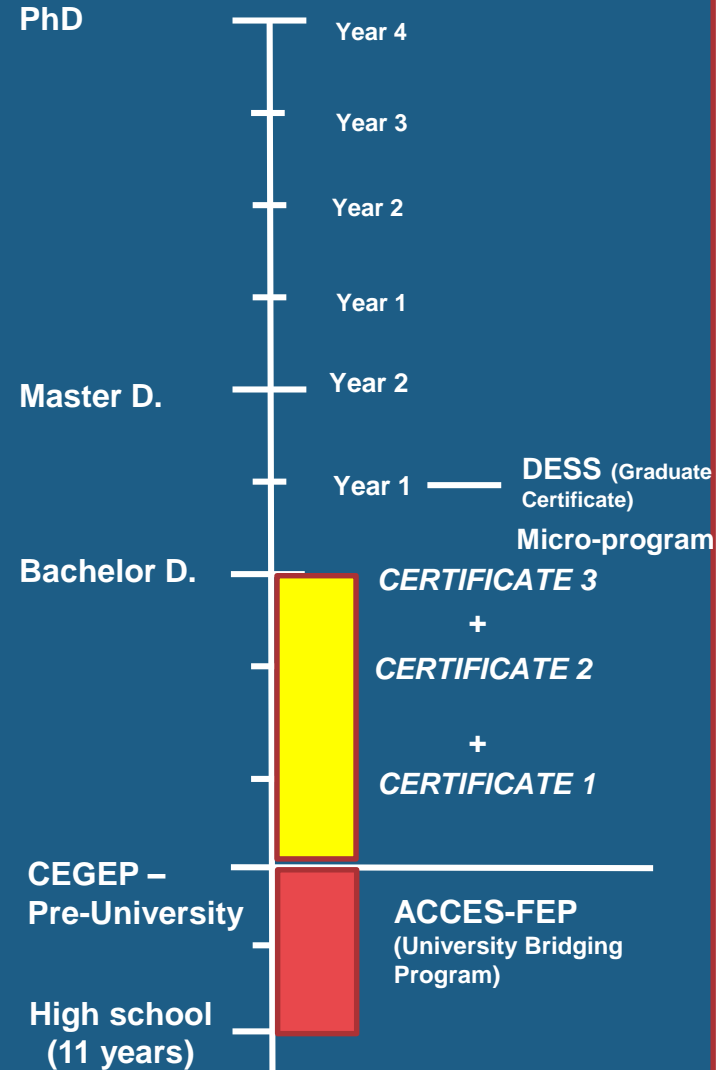
## Canada/US/LMD



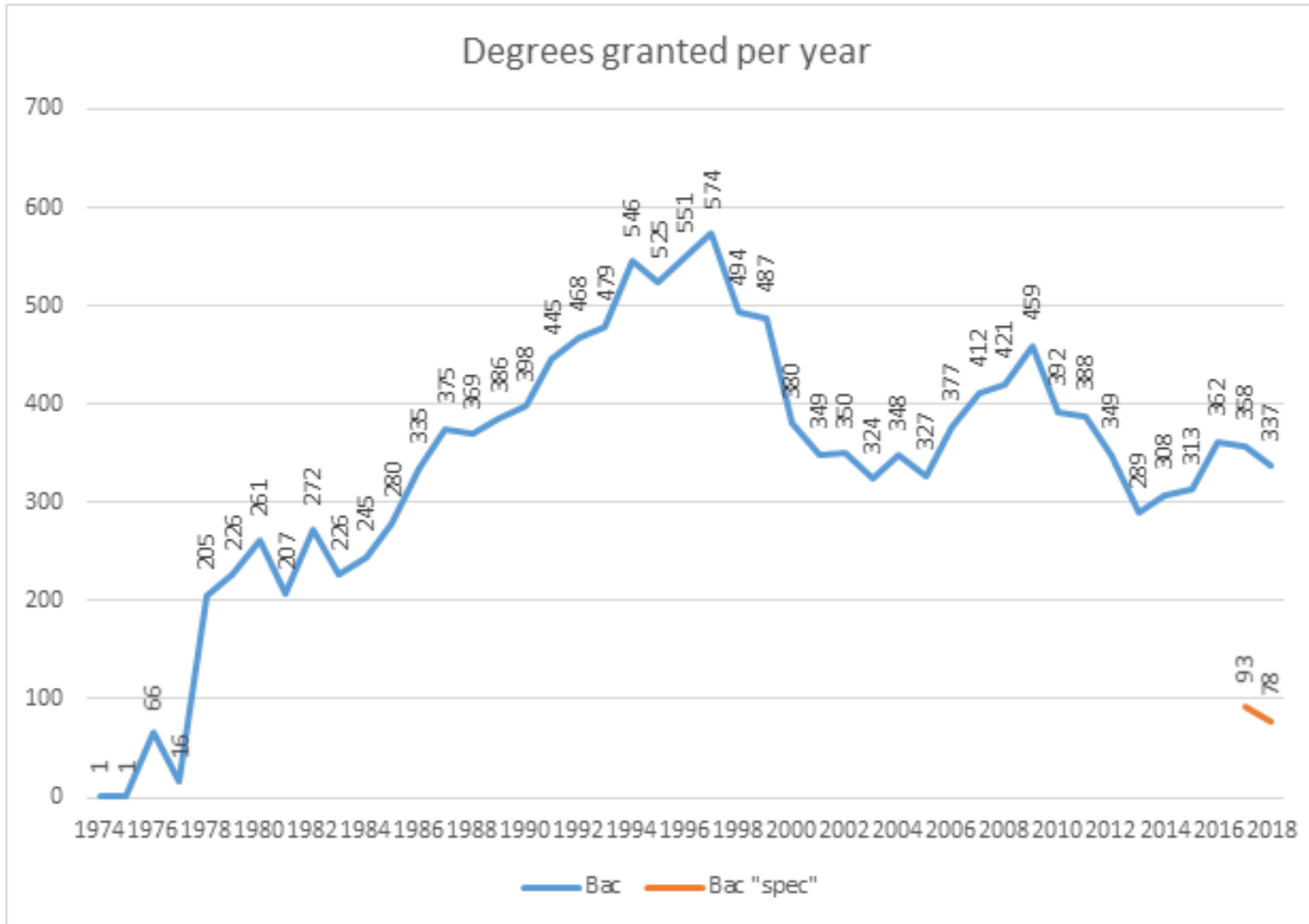
## Québec, Canada



## Québec – LLL Friendly



# Bachelor's degree awarded over time



Bac = Certificates 1+2+3

Bac « specialized »

## Comprehensive VPL strategies for LLEarners

**Path to graduation or to the end of the personal learning project should be the « shortest » possible.**

**We should do so, by recognizing formal, informal and non-formal learning.**



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**ICI, VOTRE EXPÉRIENCE PÈSE DANS LA BALANCE.**

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**ICI, UN PROGRAMME TREPLIN POUR ACCÉDER AUX ÉTUDES UNIVERSITAIRES.**

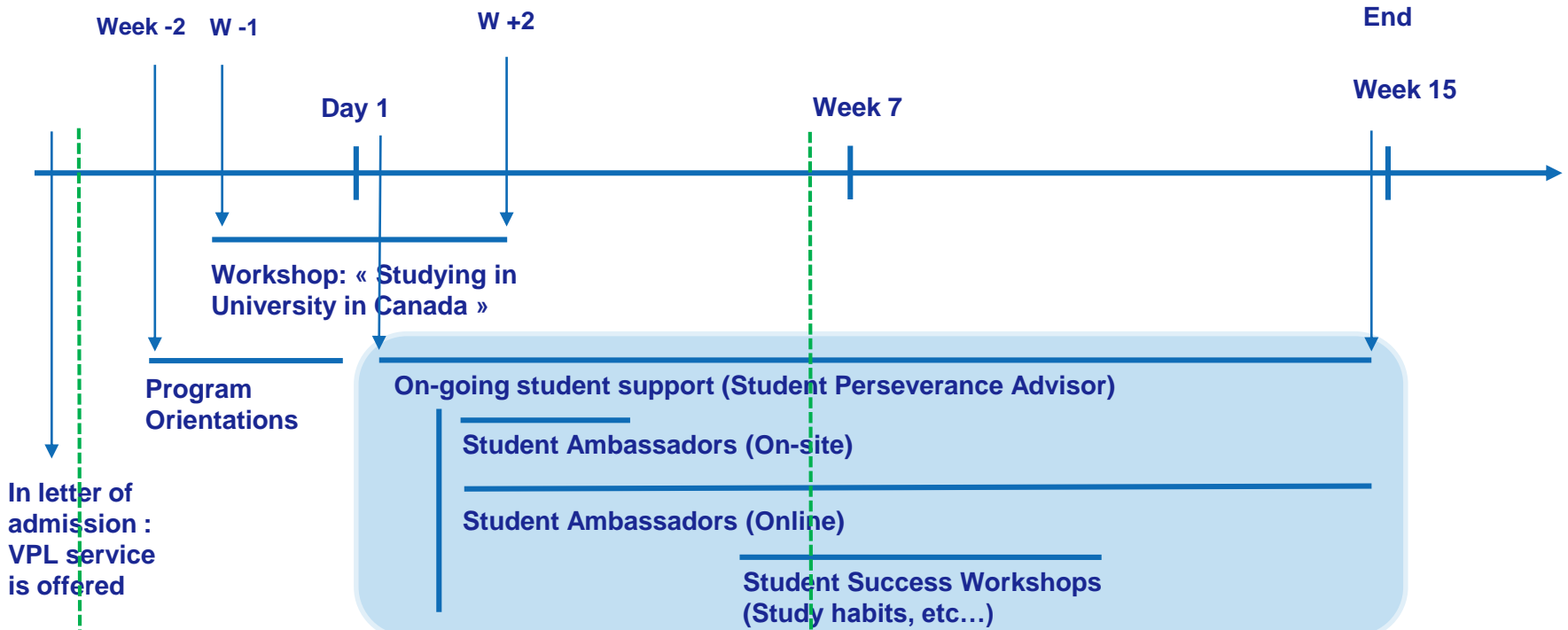
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# Student's Journey Through the 1<sup>st</sup> semester



**Student Admission and VPL Advisor**  
(« Retour aux études »)

**Clarifying Student Study Path (Career Counselling)**

- VPL - experiential
- Credit transfert
- Partial credential recognition
- Recognition of prior studies (diploma and certificate)
- Program choices

## Our Principles

1. Best program choice to attain student's goal and shorten study.
1. Does not have to be in our faculty or in our university.
2. Our objective : Students should achieve their goal in the shortest time possible.

# Improving Graduation Rate after year 1

Year	New Students	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
2 003	3 029	10%	32%	43%	48%	51%	52%
2 004	3 139	10%	32%	43%	50%	52%	53%
2 005	3 320	11%	32%	45%	51%	54%	55%
2 006	2 975	11%	32%	45%	52%	54%	55%
2 007	3 090	10%	33%	43%	49%	52%	53%
2 008	2 910	10%	31%	42%	48%	51%	52%
2 009	2 924	10%	33%	45%	50%	52%	53%
2 010	3 267	13%	38%	48%	52%	54%	55%
2 011	3 528	11%	35%	46%	52%	54%	55%
2 012	3 946	14%	39%	48%	52%	55%	
2 013	3 949	15%	40%	50%	54%		
2 014	4 256	19%	45%	54%			
2 015	3 883	19%	45%				
2 016	3 613	18%					



- 2009 – Student success advisor**
- 2011 – Constitution of a Student Success Service**
- 2013 - VPL Service –2015 / Student success Workshops**
- 2015 - Workshop Studying in University**
- 2016 - Student Ambassadors**
- 2018 - Student Learning Coaches**

# **Conclusions**

- 1. Our stackable degrees provide a meaningful path to higher education attainment**
- 2. Our multiple student success initiatives have significantly improved our graduation rate (student first year graduation rate by 10%).**
- 3. Life-long-learner's needs are changing in light of current full employment conditions in the Province of Québec (Canada).**