

Your Business ... Your Burlington

They started with teachers, then moved to MBAs.

Now Australia's [Charles Sturt University](#) is expanding its Burlington offerings to create three new undergraduate business degrees and another in forensic biotechnology, targeting local college graduates looking to top up their qualifications.

And they're not done yet.

The nonprofit, public university is waiting on approval for a new nursing program and looking into other fields.

The bachelor of business administration degrees will be available in accounting, human resources and marketing, with fees of about \$14,000 a year. Those fees are thousands of dollars higher than those at Ontario-based schools, which receive provincial operating grants.

"We're only going to survive here if we deliver quality," said Sturt's Ontario provost Bob Meyenn. "In a sense, we have our own inbuilt quality control mechanism: if we're dishing up rubbish, then people aren't going to pay for it."

Sturt's philosophy is to identify and fill gaps in Ontario's post-secondary landscape, and works co-operatively with Mohawk and Sheridan colleges and McMaster University, he explained.

Starting in September, college business grads will study an additional two years at CSU to convert their three-year diplomas into degrees under a plan recently approved by Ontario's ministry of colleges and universities.

The additional qualifications would give Mohawk and Sheridan graduates access to better jobs and more professional qualifications, Meyenn said. The second year of the program is to include an emphasis on business ethics and corporate governance, with an option for overseas study in China.

The forensic biotechnology program, nicknamed "CSI at CSU", starts in January, bridging Mohawk biotech graduates to university degrees.

CSU's growing curriculum means the university needs more space. The university is now completing a \$1.5-million, 11,000-square-foot expansion to its existing space on Harrington Court, off Harvester Road, which will bring its capacity to 500 students.



Bob Meyenn "We're only going to survive here if we deliver quality," says Bob Meyenn, the Ontario provost of Charles Sturt University, the Australia-based school that is expanding its Burlington campus.

Soon, though, that space will be full, Meyenn said. The three new business programs alone are expected to bring in 50 students each in the first years, with another 30 in each year of the biotechnology program. The university hopes to expand them in future years.

Sturt is also seeking approval to form a degree-completion partnership with Sheridan in nursing, similar to the partnership between McMaster and Mohawk.

Sturt also hopes to establish programs in social work and digital media.

With CSU projecting a total student body of as many as 3,000 within the next five years, the university is already looking at its next expansion, possibly to a free-standing, purpose-built facility, Meyenn said.

The university opened a campus here in 2005, after identifying a shortage in spaces for teacher education that had driven many Ontario students to schools in the United States.

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