



## FAQs

Why are you doing this now?

- a) Even before COVID, it was apparent in order to differentiate Huron, remain nimble, and position our future for one of sustainability and success, we needed to modernize our relationship with Western. In light of current events, this decision may seem to be one instigated by the global circumstances surrounding COVID, but really, those have only served to highlight the necessity for preparedness to navigate known – and unforeseen – challenges.
  - b) For some time, long before this concept was conceived, the university has been monitoring the academic and global climate. With what Huron has witnessed, the university believes Liberal Arts institutions either need to adapt or face significant monetary hardship. Huron's academic autonomy and ability to seek out support, independent from Western, will allow Huron to respond to challenges more effectively, deliver more fully on our mission and provide better outcomes for students.
  - c) This proposed approach to the affiliation is not new. In many ways, we are taking lessons from other strategically small, arts-based institutions. These universities, who more closely align with our Liberal Arts traditions and academic goals than one of Canada's largest research universities, have achieved great success and sustainability through their autonomous structuring. As we move forward, our ongoing deliberations will look to the best-possible models for Huron to build upon, so our transition is informed by sound practices, facts and figures, while also ensuring the relationship with Western is maintained and thriving.
- 2) Will these changes affect students' abilities to take courses at Western or any of the other affiliates?
- a) It is our intention that Huron students will still be welcome to take courses at Western and vice versa. We are hopeful our negotiations with Western and the other affiliates will support both our students' abilities to take advantage of the wonderful academic diversity our affiliation offers.
  - b) Just because Huron wants to be able to confer degrees and decide which courses Huron offers, does not mean the university will be attempting to control where/what our students study nor the flow of students between Western, King's or Brescia.
- 3) Will renewed affiliation with Western compromise our ability to recruit students?

- a) Some still feel as though the draw of an affiliate is that it is just the “easier route” to get into Western. However, our year-over-year growth, which has totalled more than 300% over the past four years, and resulted in Huron having one of the highest entrance averages in the country, suggests this is no longer the case for our university.
  - b) Based on the eagerness students continue to express for Huron’s mission of delivering on the traditional benefits of a Liberal Arts education, combined with our personal and professional development mantra of Leadership with Heart, the university’s recruitment numbers prove our university is the end destination for many of Canada’s brightest young leaders. In fact, Huron’s recruitment and admissions success story demonstrates we will actually significantly benefit from pursuing this distinction from Western.
  - c) Simply put, a Huron student is looking for something different than a Western undergrad - just as a Western student is looking for something other than what Huron offers. By maintaining the proven benefits of our affiliation, while taking ownership of our academic processes, we will be able to move away from the concept of Huron being merely an offshoot of “Main Campus” and move forward in further distinguishing ourselves as Canada’s most elite, yet accessible, Liberal Arts university.
- 4) Will the new agreement change Huron’s relationship with Ivey or affect students’ AEO statuses?
- a) More Huron students, per capita, are accepted to Ivey than any other institution. We recognize the value of combining a Liberal Arts background with a technical business degree, and it is not our plan to do anything to compromise our students’ easy transitions into the Ivey School of Business. We hope to continue this partnership, but it is subject to ongoing negotiations.
- 5) Will we issue Western degrees?
- a) No. Should the Board of Governors decide to approve this plan, and the government subsequently approve our application, Huron would be issuing Huron University degrees.
  - b) This will not affect current Huron students. Huron is not proposing any change to the degree programs current students are enrolled in. Huron’s plan will be for entering students only, on a go-forward basis, once the process, in its entirety, are complete. It is presumed that those recruited until at least Fall 2022 will be under the current model.
- 6) Will students still be able to utilize the facilities on the main campus of Western University?
- a) Should our negotiations move forward as we intend them to, this will be a key priority within the amended affiliation agreement. The shared use of our spaces, amenities and course/club offerings is a vital part of our vibrant, mutually beneficial relationship with Western. We certainly do not wish to compromise this in any way.

b) We have a 20-page affiliation agreement with Western University and are only looking to change one part of it to allow us to set our own curriculum and issue our own degrees. In many ways, we hope to deepen our affiliation and have no intentions of affecting the ability for Huron and Western students to engage in the best parts of our ongoing collaboration. However, all aspects of this agreement will be openly discussed and collaboratively negotiated with Western with the end result, hopefully, being one that most effectively articulates and honours our mutually beneficial relationship.

7) How will we determine what courses to offer?

a) As it stands, we will offer the same programs and courses we offer now. However, what will change under the amended affiliation is that, moving forward, Huron will be readily able to decide upon any new direction we might want to take to best align with the needs of our students and demands of society.

8) Is this a final decision? Is this a real consultation?

a) Huron is in open talks with Western on this topic, and collaborative discussions are underway to ensure both communities are served to the best of their individual interests.

b) Once consultations are complete, and there is a mutually agreed upon amended affiliation, the results of these discussions will go to the Board of Governors who will make a decision on the change. We will not make this decision hastily and the consultation we look forward to engaging all our various stakeholders in will inform the Board's decision making and ensure it reflects the best interests of all the people, past, current and future, who make up the rich tapestry of Huron University College.