

ecampus
Ontario



eCampusOntario Digital Transformation (Dx) Guides

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Visit digitalcampus.ca to learn more.

Explore Digital Futures

Co-design the Future of Education with Strategic Foresight



What is the digital transformation of higher education?

eCampusOntario members are transforming higher education. With eCampusOntario, Ontario colleges, universities, and Indigenous Institutes are driving innovation in the higher education sector, using digital technologies to redefine how higher education delivers value to learners.

The results are in. eCampusOntario and its members are using technology to empower trailblazers, improve learner experiences, strengthen resilience to sustain growth across the sector and prepare the workforce of the future to thrive.



Why do higher education institutions need to explore the digital futures of higher education?

Improve Strategic Foresight.

Today's leaders must continuously adapt strategies considering the present and possible futures. Strategic thinkers must build their understanding of what might be coming, consider broader perspectives, imagine possible outcomes, and create and launch plans considering a range of possible futures.

Strategic Foresight supports institutions in navigating digital transformation by building awareness of factors that might result in significant impact or disruption. Strategic Foresight helps address immediate and short-term challenges while articulating long-term visions for systems-level evolution and resiliency.

“Strategic Foresight doesn’t help us figure out what to think about the future. It helps us figure out how to think about it.”

~ J. Peter Scoblic, Harvard Business Review



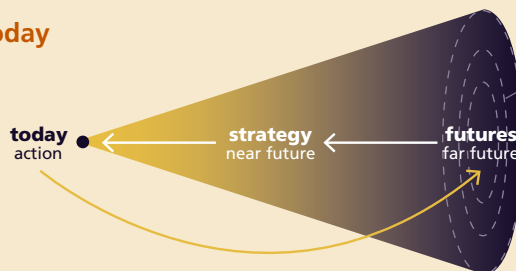
Make better decisions.

In today's economy, leaders are challenged to plan for a range of futures with capabilities and jobs that are not yet invented. With the accelerated pace of change, leaders need dynamic capabilities for managerial judgement and decision-making in the digital economy.

Strategic Foresight offers a way forward. Organizations can improve their understanding of forces of change, prepare for different scenarios and make better strategy decisions. With Strategic Foresight, leaders can find the way forward by strengthening the organization's abilities to envision, evaluate and adapt to what happens in the years ahead.

Futures Informing Strategies of Today

Emerging or maturing trends today allow us to imagine possible futures. These futures are useful in informing our strategies, while our strategies help inform our actions today.



plausibility

The rings represent the level of plausibility of a specific future outcome, ranging from more plausible towards the inner rings, to less plausible towards the outer rings.

Why do we use futures instead of future? In foresight practice, we refer to the future in plural. As we cannot predict the future, there is no definite image or vision of it. Thus, the future will always be an infinite range of possible outcomes rather than a single destination.

Adapted from [Joseph Voros, The Futures Cone](#)



“For any given uncertainty about the future — whether that’s risk, opportunity, or growth — we tend to think in the short- and long-term simultaneously... timelines aren’t actually lines at all — they are cones.”

~ Amy Webb, Futurist and Professor New York University Stern School of Business

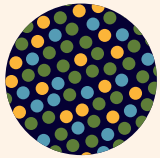
 **Inform innovation with evolving insights.**

eCampusOntario is helping higher education institutions prepare graduates for the changing world of work and evolving skills needed for complex futures. With eCampusOntario, institutions can explore their present capabilities and map these to potential futures.

The eCampusOntario Foresight Reports are tools you can use to support the navigation of uncertain and complex futures. Foresight helps inform present-day decision-making by identifying patterns of change in important areas that impact the futures of higher education. These reports can be used to engage in strategic discussions and take action to build Dx capacity at your institution.

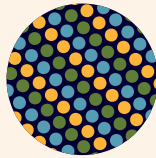
“Organizations don’t just prepare for the future. They make it. Moments of uncertainty hold great entrepreneurial potential.”

~ Learning from the Future, Harvard Business Review



Signals

Signals are emerging phenomena demonstrating the changes that might affect us.



Trends

A trend is a group of signals showing a pattern and more substantial indications of possible disruptions.



Drivers

Drivers are significant, disruptive forces likely to impact the sector.





How can eCampusOntario support your exploration of digital futures?

Collaborate.

Work with the eCampusOntario Research and Foresight team to better understand what is changing in higher education and what is influencing that change.

Strategize.

eCampusOntario works with higher education institutions to understand the landscape for impact and change and identify insights for transformation. Review [Research and Foresight publications](#) and [reports](#) to explore possible futures and inform present-day decision-making. Work with us to identify new insights that will influence your strategic choices for digital transformation.

Manage Change.

Dx involves more than implementing new technologies. Successful Dx shifts organizational culture and integrates digital tools into core operations. Build digital capacity at your institution. Ensure your digital leaders can promote a culture of innovation and inspire action with the [Dx Leadership professional development](#) here.

Connect and Engage.

eCampusOntario webinars, events, and resources feature the most recent efforts using digital technologies to enable all facets of the learner experience. Engage with digital leaders across the province to successfully implement your Dx initiative. [Join an eCampusOntario community](#) here to share experiences and hear from others using these technologies across the sector.

“Futuring is fast becoming a necessary skill, where we read signals, see trends and ruthlessly test our own assumptions... it’s a skill that anyone who has to make long-range decisions should, and can, acquire.”

~ Christopher Mims, *Technology Columnist, Wall Street Journal*



Need support?

eCampusOntario can help. Contact us to find out more about how eCampusOntario can help enable your Dx journey.

Contact us. digitalcampus.ca

