

SUPPORTING EVOLUTIONARY IMPROVEMENTS TO FARPACTA ADMISSIONS (Revised)

Purpose: To pro-actively identify and detail possible improvements to PEO's upcoming new FARPACTA admissions processes with the objective of attempting to remove new barriers to P.Eng. licensure imposed by the first generation FARPACTA "P.Eng. only if you have B.Eng.," admissions processes.

Motion(s) to consider: (requires a simple majority of votes cast to carry)

- (a) A Working Group composed of admissions experts from ARC and ERC be asked to provide Council with admissions process directive recommendations to enable Council to provide informed admissions process direction to the CEO/Registrar as part of PEO's ongoing admissions process quality improvement processes. These recommendations will consider, but are not limited to,
 - (i) Admissions process guiding principles (with a provincial and national lens).
 - (ii) Removal of barriers to P.Eng. licensure introduced by the new FARPACTA admissions processes.
 - (iii) Equity, diversity, and inclusivity (EDI) considerations.
 - (iv) Impacts on the admission of emerging disciplines.
 - (v) Impacts on stakeholders.
 - (vi) Impacts on the protection of the public interest.
 - (vii) Time to licensure.
- (b) The ARC and ERC Working Group recommendations should be peer reviewed by the LIC and RPLC prior to coming to Council.
- (c) ARC and ERC Working Group members will be considered non-voting participants, i.e., not just observers, in RPLC committee meetings when this motion's recommendations proceed through RPLC.

Prepared by: Roydon Fraser, P.Eng., Ph.D., FEC, President-Elect

Moved by: Roydon Fraser, P.Eng., Ph.D., FEC, President-Elect

Revision:

Motion was changed from having the ARC and ERC Working Group working on possible next generation admissions models to having staff, through the CEO/Registrar, work on future admissions model(s) under the direction and control of Council.

1. Need for PEO Action

This motion is a natural follow-on to the November Council meeting approval of IIDD identified B.Eng.'s as an equivalent to an engineering bachelor's degree in Canada. The approved motion is reproduced below. It contemplates possible expansion of the definition of equivalent to an engineering bachelor's degree in Canada because, in part, of the new barriers to P.Eng. licensure imposed by the new "P.Eng. only if you have B.Eng.," FARPACTA satisfying, admissions model.

“That Council recognize that obtaining a bachelor’s degree in an engineering program that is included in the International Institutions and Degrees Database (IIDD) administered by Engineers Canada, subject to successful completion of a confirmatory examination program, is equivalent to a bachelor’s degree in a Canadian engineering program that is accredited to the Council’s satisfaction.” - approved unanimously

A partial list of new barriers to, and reduced standards veracity of, P.Eng. licensure includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (i) No longer a path for many Engineering Master’s and Ph.D.’s to be P.Eng. licensed [Equity/fairness issue; emerging disciplines issue; new barrier].
- (ii) No longer a path for B.Tech graduates to be P.Eng. licensed [Equity/fairness issue; prior PEO agreement issue; new barrier].
- (iii) Non-CEAB accredited engineering programs in Canada are automatically excluded from the IIDD, but had the programs not been delivered in Canada they could very likely be on the IIDD, e.g., it has happened that new engineering programs in Canada are not immediately CEAB accredited [Equity/fairness issue; new barrier].
- (iv) No longer a path for science and math degree graduates to be P.Eng. licensed [Equity/fairness issue; emerging disciplines issue; new barrier].
- (v) No longer a path for technologists to be P.Eng. licensed [Equity/fairness issue; new barrier].
- (vi) Requiring confirmatory examinations before an applicant is considered for licensure introduces a new barrier to those applicants who otherwise would be exempt from writing examinations. [Possible reduction in number seeking licensure; new barrier].
- (vii) Old admissions process enabled wider variety of applicants to write the Professional Practice Examination when application was incomplete, so still many of those who did not get licensed at least demonstrated knowledge of professional engineering ethics. [Decrease in number of people who know professional engineering ethics; new barrier].
- (viii) By accepting the IIDD as the standard for equivalent to a bachelor’s degree in a Canadian engineering program that is accredited to the Council’s satisfaction, there is no longer a confirmatory check of an ‘*individual*’ applicant’s academic *breadth* of knowledge. [violates the principle of accessing the individual and not the program, i.e., does not adhere to the CEAB principle of ‘*minimum path*’; reduced standards veracity].

If PEO wishes to protect the public interest by regulating professional engineering, it must have an admissions process that does not have artificial barriers. Restricting a P.Eng. to only those who possess a B.Eng. not only inserts new barriers to the P.Eng., it also contributes to a less inviting, less respecting of competency, less pride promoting, model of admissions.

Two examples of the new barriers to P.Eng. licensure are given in Appendix A and Appendix B. Appendix A is a letter from McMaster concerning the negative impact of PEO’s FARPACTA admissions changes on their B.Tech graduates, while Appendix B is a summary of the impact of the first generation FARPACTA admissions model on admissions guiding principles as determined by a prior ARC working group.

2. Proposed Action / Recommendation

Request that ARC and ERC form a Working Group to provide Council with admissions process direction and control recommendations as per motion.

3. Next Steps (if motion approved)

- Form as soon as possible the ARC and ERC Working Group that includes at least one Councillor given the purpose of creating direction for PEO Council.
- Request expected timeline from ARC and ERC Working Group.

4. Financial Impact on PEO Budgets (for five years)

Expect existing ARC and ERC budgets to be sufficient or mostly sufficient. Some additional cost to hold some meetings may be incurred for possible meetings outside of normal ARC/ERC meeting days, or for an additional volunteer attendee expert not on ARC/ERC.

5. Peer Review & Process Followed

- Councillor generated motion.
- Given purpose of this motion is to assist Council in setting direction, including identifying what stakeholders to include in the direction, the appropriate peer and stakeholder for this particular motion, at this stage, is Council itself.

6. Appendices

- Appendix A: B.Tech letter from McMaster
- Appendix B: Guiding principles summaries of the existing PEO admissions process, first generation FARPACTA admissions process, and one possible future FARPACTA admissions process as prepared by a prior ARC working group in Summer 2022.
- Appendix C: Abbreviations

February 23, 2023

Professional Engineers Ontario
40 Shepard Avenue West, Suite 101
Toronto, ON M2N 6K9

C-556-3.10a
Appendix A

Dear PEO Council,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recently announced changes to the PEO licensing process that excludes McMaster University Bachelor of Technology graduates.

McMaster University currently has an agreement with the PEO whereby graduates of our B.Tech. Programs are given Confirmatory Exams to satisfy the Academic Requirements. The B.Tech. Programs are Undergraduate University-level Degrees — they are not College-level programs. The current agreement between McMaster and the PEO came from an ARC B.Tech. Subcommittee that performed a detailed review of our programs (this was led by Prof. Bob Dony, past PEO President). We have this agreement in writing.

The recent announcement that our graduates may no longer apply for a license was shocking. I was aware there was a new FARPACTA-friendly application process coming, but I did not imagine that a new process based on ‘fairness’ would exclude our students. The changes are effective May 15th, 2023, meaning that students graduating this coming June will be ineligible to apply for a license. This is incredibly unfair to our students who entered our programs with the expectation they would be eligible to become a P.Eng..

Students, parents, employers, McMaster Faculty, and even career guidance counsellors have all been operating under the assumption that our graduates would be eligible to become licensed. We have received hundreds of complaints regarding the new rules. Some of our part-time students are sponsored by their employers – who will now receive zero return on their investment, not to mention the millions of dollars paid by students and parents. Our Bachelor of Technology Programs were created to serve a strategic purpose in the province of Ontario, and all internal and external reviews of these programs praise their value. In 2022, 113 of our graduates applied to the PEO, which demonstrates the need for our graduates to be eligible for licensing. Programs such as Automotive and Vehicle Engineering Technology, Civil Engineering Infrastructure Technology, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, and Power and Energy Engineering Technology, were all created to serve Ontario’s most critical and strategic sectors.

I understand there is a motion being presented to the PEO Council that could improve the new FARPACTA admissions model, and I would like to support that motion. Excluding the Bachelor of Technology graduates from the application process is not in the best interest of Ontario and is not in the spirit of providing fair access to our profession.

I appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Dr. Konstantinos Apostolou, L.E.L.
Associate Director – Undergraduate Studies
W Booth School of Engineering Practice and Technology
McMaster University
e-mail: apostol@mcmaster.ca

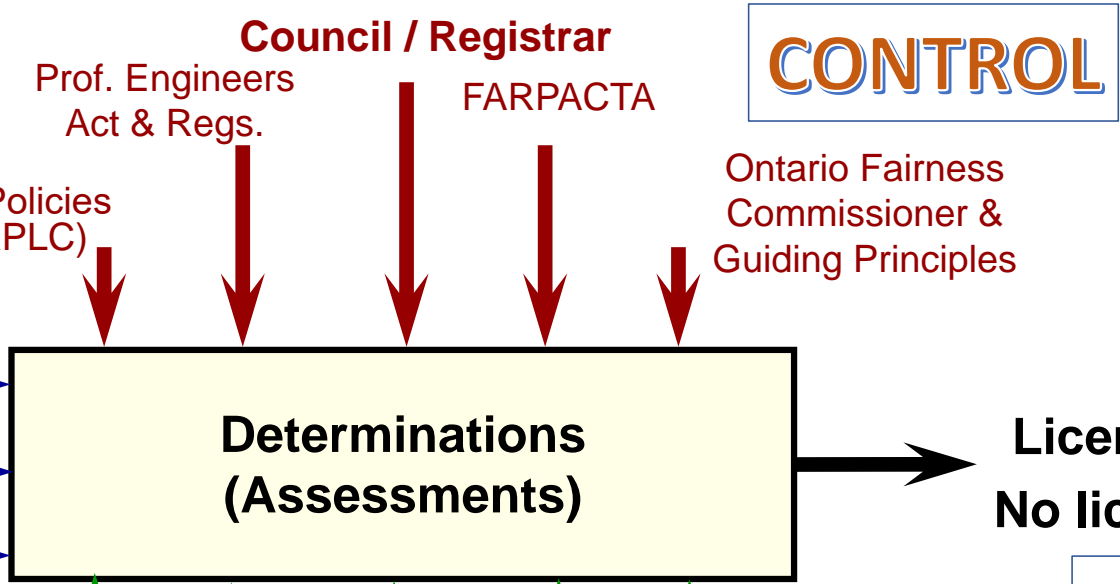


PEO's Licensing System

C-556-3.10a
Appendix B

INPUT

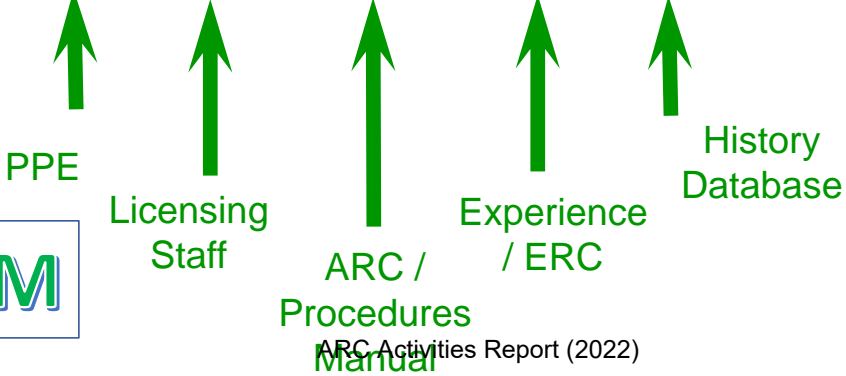
- Required Authentic Documents
- (Completed) Applications
- Applicant's Needs & Preferences



**Licence issued /
No licence issued**

OUTPUT

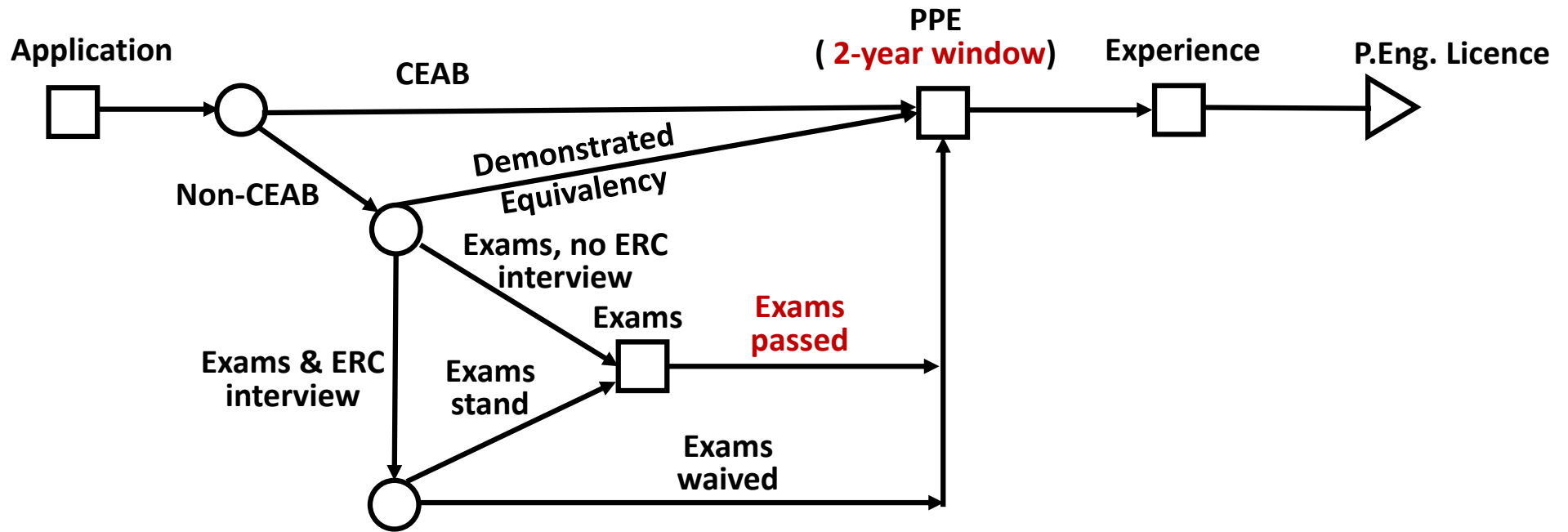
MECHANISM



ARC Activities Report (2022)



The current PEO licensing process

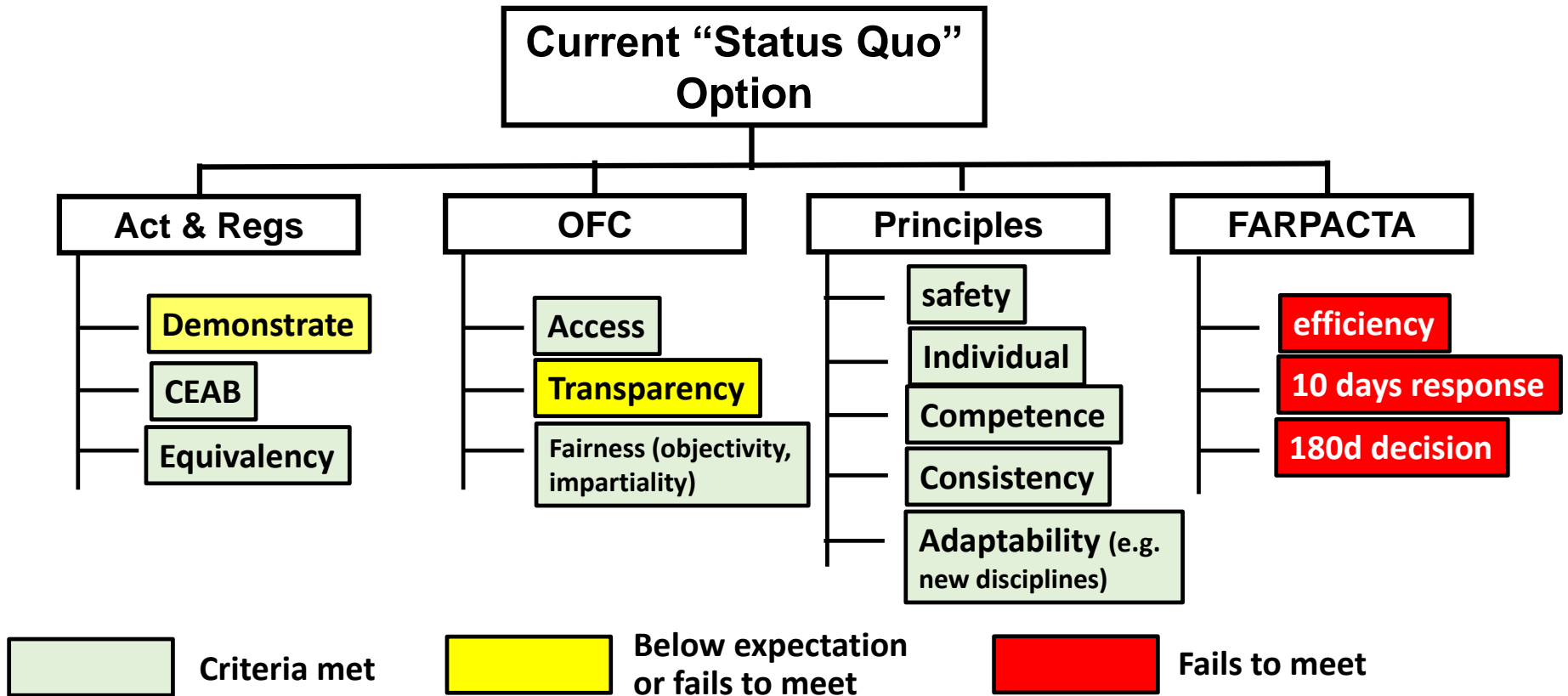


**Average duration in months:
20 (CEP); 28 (DCEP); 31 (SEP)**



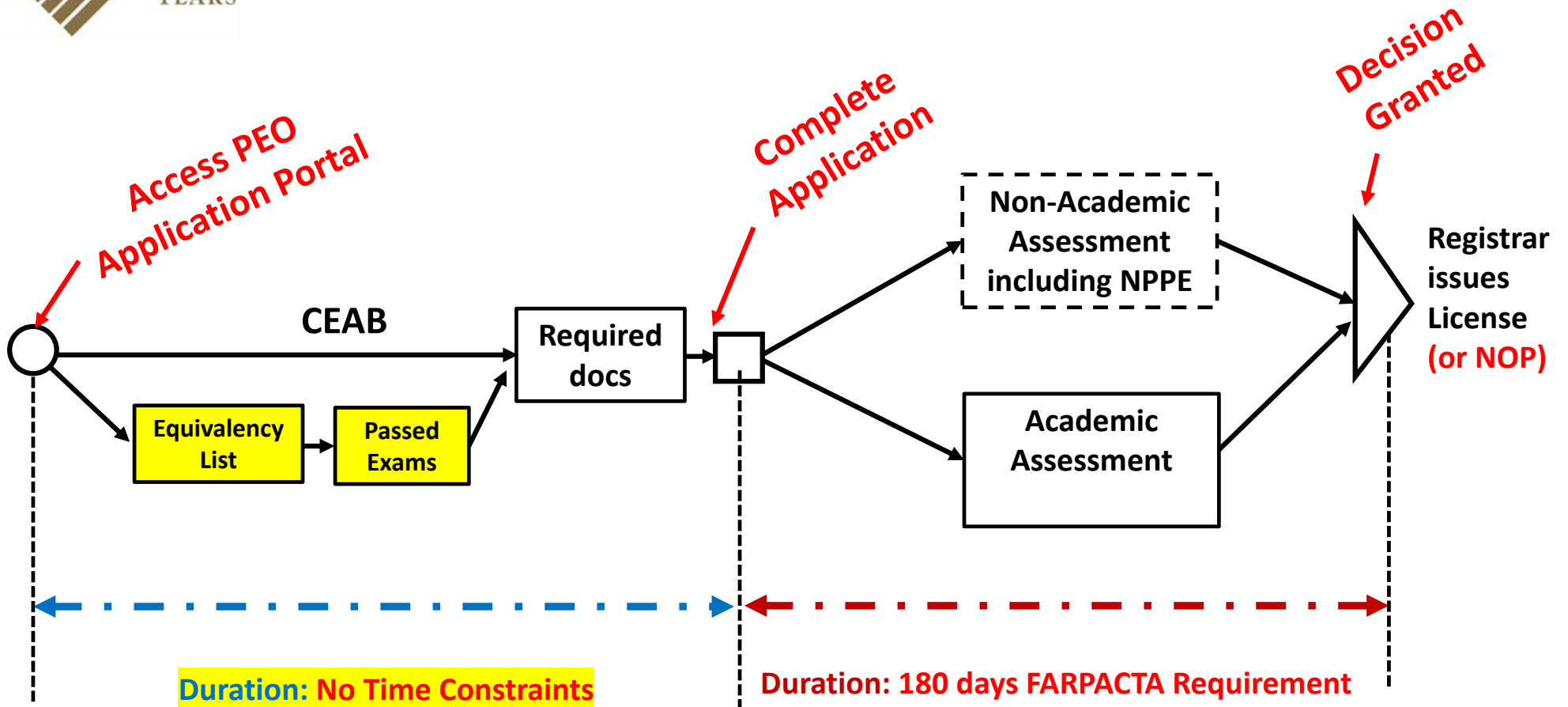
Objectives and Measures

Option 1: Continue to accept all applications irrespective of academic credentials (status quo)





PEO Staff Proposed Licensing Model under FARPACTA

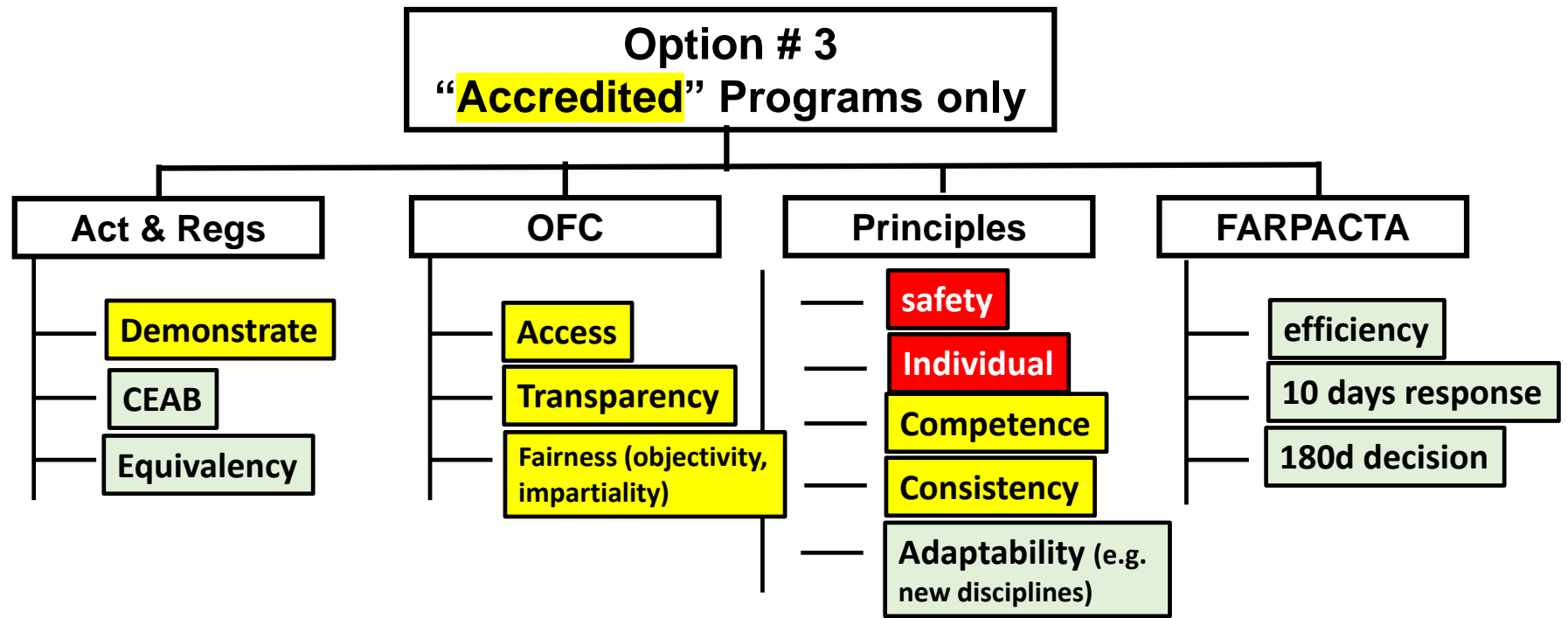




Objectives and Measures

What is an “accredited Program”? “IDD Stamp of Approval” ????

Option 3: Modify the assessment process to accept **accredited programs** as equivalent and to reduce the number of assigned exams to be passed within six months



 Criteria met

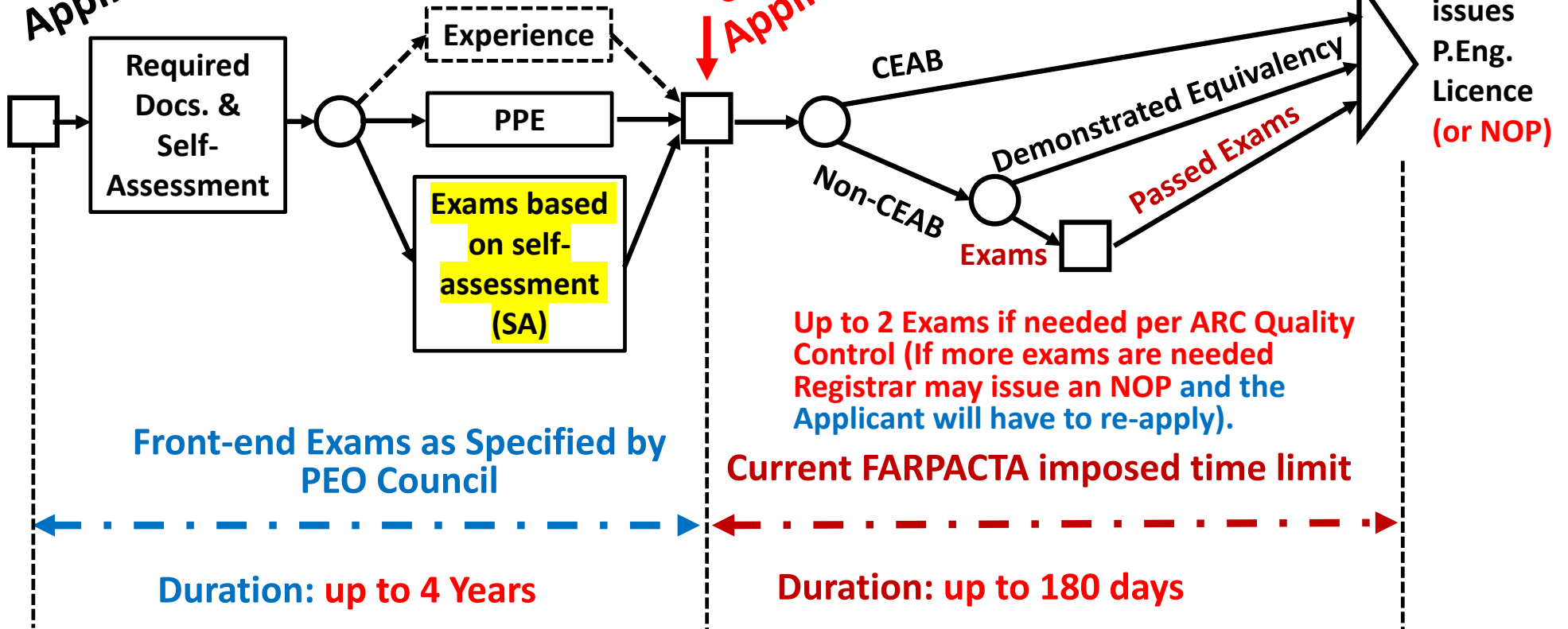
 Below expectation or fails to meet

 Fails to meet



Proposed PEO Licensing Model under FARPACTA

Application

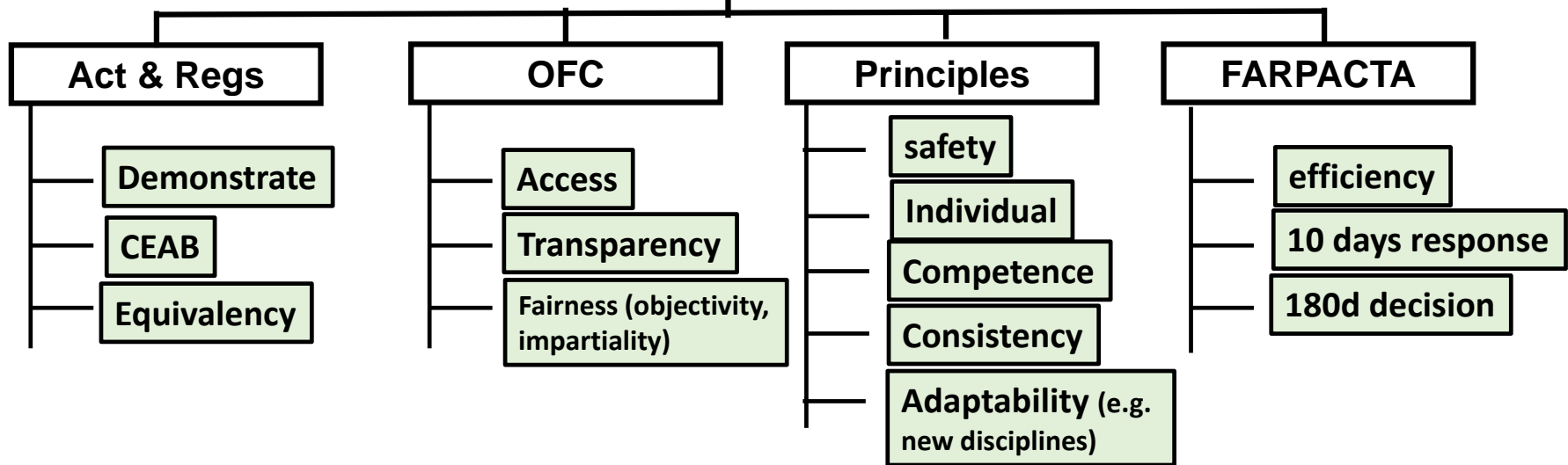




Objectives and Measures

Option 5: Front End Self-Assessment Approach & PEO Exams

Option # 5 Front end Self-Assessment + ARC QA Review when Application is complete



Criteria met

Below expectation or fails to meet
ARC Activities Report (2022)

Fails to meet

APPENDIX C
Abbreviations

ARC	Academic Requirements Committee
CEAB	Canadian Engineering Qualifications Board
ERC	Experience Requirements Committee
FARACTA	Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act
IIDD	International Institutions and Degrees Database
LIC	Licensing Committee
PEO	Professional Engineers Ontario
RPLC	Regulation, Policy, and Licensing Committee