

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 28 June 2022

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modifications – Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to examine proposals for new undergraduate degree programs and major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council”.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That, pursuant to the recommendation of USC, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies program.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing to add a 4-year direct entry from high school option for the BA in Educational Studies (currently only a 2-year Advanced Entry program). This includes adding 20 more courses, both core and elective. Additionally, two new experiential learning courses will be added as electives for both programs (EDST 4980U and EDST 4981U Work Integrated Learning I & II). Two Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), which were developed but missed in the Major Program Modification approved by Academic Council in March 2022, will also be added.

The 2-year Advanced Entry version of Adult Education and Digital Technology (AEDT) was implemented in 2012 with modest enrollment. The online program consists of 20 mandatory courses. In March 2022 a number of changes were made to the program in response to the cyclical program review. The main focus of the recent revisions to the Advanced Entry program was to add flexibility for students and to update some course offerings.

A 4-year direct from high school BA in Adult Education and Digital Technology (AEDT) was approved in 2011 at the same time as the Advanced Entry program, but was not implemented. The 4-year program approved at that time was highly prescriptive and the program focused on Adult Education. The Admissions Office has advised that there is considerable demand for a 4-year BA in Educational Studies that 1) allows for greater choice in electives and 2) allows a range of foci for students. Conversations with secondary students at recruitment events suggest that students are looking for a direct-entry into a 4-year honours BA in Educational Studies.

The new revised Advanced Entry program has been well-received and the Faculty of Education is looking for ways to increase program enrolment based on earlier success. The 4-year proposal provides an option within the current BA Educational Studies to allow direct entry into Ontario Tech from secondary school, rather than providing 'transfer credit' to students from college or university programs who then enter the Advanced Entry program. There are no changes to the Program Learning Outcomes as a result of the addition of this direct from high school option. The 4-year program will also provide a link directly into Ontario Tech's BEd program for students who maintain a grade point average and complete the required courses. Because of the popularity of concurrent education programs, adding this 4-year program may increase entrance GPAs for Ontario Tech.

The addition of 2 optional experiential learning courses will allow Educational Studies students to connect theory with practice outside the classroom. These courses will allow students to explore educational possibilities outside of K-12 classrooms including business and nonprofit organizations. These courses will provide excellent educational insights especially for Educational Studies students not heading for the BEd program (which has 3 placements).

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

This proposal requires no additional academic or non-academic resources to begin the 4-year program or implement any of the changes. The 4-year program uses the same courses and delivery methods as the Advanced Entry program so no additional sections of Educational Studies courses are needed until enrollment numbers warrant. The two new courses are electives, meaning that they will only be offered when required based on enrollment and student interest. Existing Education faculty will be redistributed to teach the courses within the program and the number of elective courses offered each year will depend on enrollment. As the program is online, no physical resources are required for the Educational Studies courses.

As enrolment increases in the 4-year program, if students choose in-person general or breadth electives, this may require additional sections of courses and additional physical space in other Faculties.

The Academic Resource Committee reviewed the resources for the Educational Studies program as part of the cyclical program review with the understanding that the 4-year option was horizon. Requests for additional resources will be managed within the context of enrollment.

TRANSITION PLAN:

These changes are effective Fall 2023. There is no transition plan required for any of the changes.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

USC: 24 May 2022

Faculty Council: 25 April 2022

NEXT STEPS:

- Pending the approval of Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Calendar Entry for 4-year Program](#)
- [Updates to Calendar Content for Advanced Entry](#)

For Information:

- New Courses: [EDST 4980U](#), [EDST 4981U](#)