

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation
- Decision
- Discussion/Direction
- Information

DATE: 28 February 2023

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies Advanced Entry, and Undergraduate Diploma in Designing Adult Education for the Digital Age

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 the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies – Advanced Entry, and Undergraduate Diploma in Designing Adult Education for the Digital Age programs.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing the following changes to the 4-year BA Educational Studies and BA Educational Studies Advanced Entry:

1. Revise the adult-focused specialization;
2. Revise the Early Childhood Studies specialization;
3. Change the description of required courses in specializations for EDI courses;
4. Delete three courses made redundant by changes in 2022 and those proposed above;
5. Update EDST courses to correctly reflect the course hours; and
6. Update Program Learning Outcomes.

The Faculty is also proposing the following changes to the Undergraduate Diploma program:

1. Rename the diploma to Facilitating Adult Learning with Technology;
2. Change required courses and add a selection of courses from which students can choose;
3. Update Program Learning Outcomes; and
4. Update Admission Requirements.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources required.

TRANSITION PLAN:

- Students currently enrolled in the specializations or diploma can continue with existing course maps if desired, or switch to the new specializations or diploma.
- Courses taken within the old specializations or diploma (and being discontinued) will count towards the new specializations or diploma.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- Undergraduate Studies Committee: 17 January 2023
- Faculty Council: 19 December 2022
- Curriculum Committee: 7 December 2022

The proposed changes built on discussions with the External Reviewers for growing the Advanced Entry program (Sept 2021). Numerous focus groups, interviews and surveys of current and former students were conducted.

The changes to the Adult Learning & Development specialization were based on a year of research and consultation including an in-depth analysis of requirements for recognition, research of programs at other universities and discussions with industry experts in learning and development. Information gathered was consolidated by a team including faculty, and current and former students.

Feedback on the Early Childhood Studies specialization was provided by experts in the area. All spoke of the need for a course targeting coding and maker pedagogies in early childhood environments. Suggestions for improving the course and learning outcomes were integrated into the final design.

The proposed changes were discussed at two BA program meetings and supported.

NEXT STEPS:

- Pending the approval of Academic Council, the changes will be included in the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Educational Studies](#)
- [Educational Studies - Advanced entry](#)
- [Facilitating Adult Learning with Technology - Diploma](#)
- New courses: [EDST 3440U](#), [EDST 3460U](#), [EDST 4470U](#), [EDST 4610U](#)
- Course Changes: [EDST 1120U](#), [EDST 1170U](#), [EDST 3130U](#)
 - Bulk changes to contact hours: EDST course file.xls (available for review in Educational Studies proposal above; Course changes compiled in yellow columns).