

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation
- Decision
- Discussion/Direction
- Information

DATE: 27 February 2024

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification - Bachelor of Education -
Intermediate/Senior and Primary/Junior

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 Modification to the Bachelor of Education's Primary/Junior and Intermediate/Senior programs.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing to:

1. Increase the admission GPA from 3.0 (current) to 3.5 (proposed) for students entering the Bachelor of Education from the Concurrent Education program.

Increasing the quality of candidates will increase the likelihood that they are (a) capable of effectively managing a demanding workload, and (b) committed to academic excellence.

2. Add four prerequisites for Concurrent Education students.
 - a. EDST 1000U – Foundations of Learning
 - b. EDST 2110U – Assessment for Learning
 - c. Two additional EDST courses of their choice.

The Faculty appreciates the diversity of students' experience and subject expertise attracted via the Concurrent program, but has observed a gap in understanding related to foundations of education. In collaboration with the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Educational Studies program, the Faculty will require students enrolled in Concurrent education to complete a minimum of four Educational Studies courses as part of their undergraduate programming.

3. Retain quality teacher candidates by increasing the GPA requirements for program continuation from "B- (70%) overall average" to "achieve a B (73-76%) in each Bachelor of Education course".
4. Reclassify the delivery mode of 12 courses (3 core, 9 elective) from in-class to hybrid.

Modifying the delivery method of select courses will reduce the physical space needs of the program, allowing for the creation of additional course sections to accommodate program growth without conflicting with building infrastructure. We anticipate that the flexibility offered by increased hybrid and fully-online course options will have a positive impact on student retention.

5. Editorial updates to academic calendar listing for *Education – Primary/Junior* section and *Education – Intermediate/Senior* section

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No immediate human or financial resources required.

TRANSITION PLAN:

The proposed changes would take effect in Fall 2024.

Instructional Delivery Changes:

As part of the standard communications preceding Fall course registration, students will be informed about the change in delivery method for the aforementioned courses. This change in delivery would be reflected in the course registration system and students' timetables via the appropriate code.

To ease current scheduling challenges and avoid reserving classroom space unnecessarily, hybrid courses will share space in the timetable.

Concurrent Education Changes:

Students presently enrolled in the Concurrent Education program will not be affected by this transition. These students would be required to maintain the competitive average stated in their acceptance letter. The increased GPA requirement and pre-requisite courses would only apply to students applying to Concurrent Education following the implementation of these changes.

Letters of acceptance into the Concurrent Education program will be modified to reflect the updated GPA required for transition into the Bachelor of Education. These letters will also contain the text above, stating that students must complete the requisite Educational Studies (EDST) courses prior to program completion, with a recommendation to meet with their first-year advisor to design a program map that will enable them to meet program requirements.

Program GPA Changes:

Students who were enrolled in the Bachelor of Education prior to the implementation of these changes will not be affected. This cohort of students will be in their final semester and will be expected to complete the program requirements as previously stated.

Letters of acceptance into the Bachelor of Education program for Fall 2024 will be updated to reflect the updated expectations around attaining a B (73 - 76%) in each course of the program.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Education Curriculum Committee: 15 November 2023
- ✓ Faculty Council: 27 November 2023
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (Recommendation): 16 January 2024
- Academic Council (Approval): 27 February 2024

Additional student perspective was garnered through feedback from Academic Advising.

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the approval of Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Major Program Modification Proposal – Education – Intermediate/Senior](#)
- [Major Program Modification Proposal – Education – Primary/Junior](#)