



Accreditation Decision

Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty of Education

Substantial Change in Program pertaining to:

Consecutive program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior and Junior/Intermediate divisions, including the Primary/Junior divisions with a focus on teaching French as a Second Language, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree

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Introduction

On November 19, 2021 the Faculty of Education at Wilfrid Laurier University (the “Faculty”) submitted an application for a substantial change pertaining to its accredited consecutive program of professional education.

Currently, the Faculty of Education offers its program of professional education at the Waterloo main campus. The proposed change is to offer the program, as accredited, at the Brantford campus as well. Wilfrid Laurier University’s Brantford campus currently offers approximately 16 undergraduate programs and accommodates 2,610 registered undergraduate students in a variety of programs. The Faculty of Education will launch the additional program site for its program of professional education at the Brantford campus effective September 2022.

In accordance with Regulation 347/02 Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs and Regulation 563/21 General, an accreditation panel was established for the purposes of considering whether the permitted institution proposes to substantially change the character, duration or components of the accredited program and to submit a report of its findings.

The two-person accreditation panel was comprised of a roster member from the public and a roster member from the profession. The panel determined that there was reason to believe that the proposed changes amount to a change in the character of the accredited program.

By virtue of the authority granted under the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996* and Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs, and, given that there was reason to believe that the provider proposes to substantially change the character the program of professional education, the program was reviewed to determine if it continues to qualify for accreditation.

In making this decision, the following were considered:

- the application for the review of the program change submitted November 19, 2021
- the Accreditation Decision dated May 30, 2017, related to the program
- the regulatory requirements of Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs

Accreditation Requirement Findings and Reasons

Requirements Not Impacted by the Program Change

The attestation made by Wilfrid Laurier University that there are no changes regarding the factual findings for requirements 1,1.1, 2, 3, 3.1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 11 is accepted. There is no impact to these accreditation requirements and they remain fully satisfied.

Requirements Impacted by the Program Change

Based on the information provided, the program change, as proposed, is found to fully satisfy the remaining accreditation requirements 6, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 15 as they read on May 30, 2017.

The reasons for the decision and the facts on which it is based follow herein:

Requirement 6

Based on the information reviewed, the program, as modified, fully satisfies accreditation requirement 6.

All facets of the program's format and structure have remained unchanged and will be replicated at the Brantford campus. The course content is the same as that accredited in 2017. All courses offered at the Waterloo campus will be offered in the same format and structure at the Brantford campus. The practicum schedule is anticipated to be identical to the Waterloo campus program.

Requirement 8

Based on the information reviewed, the program, as modified, fully satisfies accreditation requirement 8.

The practicum requirements have remained unchanged since 2017 and will be replicated for the Brantford campus. The Faculty now has formal agreements with the following eight school boards which will benefit from the proposed Brantford campus location: Waterloo Region District School Board, Waterloo Catholic District School Board, Upper Grand District School Board, Wellington Catholic District School Board, Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic District School Board, Grand Erie District School Board and Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk Catholic District School Board.

The observation and practice teaching responsibilities of the teacher candidates are the same as previously accredited in May 2017. Division and subject area placements are adhered to, along with the roles of associate teachers and faculty advisors.

The implementation of a software program called *Navigator* to host information related to practicum placements of teacher candidates is used for data storage and retrieval for the Field Experience Office, teacher candidates and field supervisors. *Navigator* allows for a centralized approach to managing practicum information and will benefit the Brantford campus location.

Requirement 12

Based on the information reviewed, the program, as modified, fully satisfies accreditation requirement 12.

Full-time faculty members from the main campus will teach some courses at the Brantford campus. At least two new full-time faculty members and several contract teaching faculty will be hired, as needed, with appropriate qualifications and experiences in teacher education for the Brantford campus. Some of those faculty members will represent the eight partner school boards and will contribute to the development of teacher candidates, underscoring a continued collaboration among education-related organizations in Brantford and surrounding areas.

The Faculty has recently reorganized staff structures and has hired new personnel such as a Manager of Experiential Learning and a Program Assistant for the Bachelor of Education program. The Faculty is planning to hire a B.Ed. Academic Advisor for September 2022. These positions will have some responsibility for the Brantford campus. A plan is in place to hire new staff roles for the Brantford campus such as a Program Administrator and Practicum Coordinator.

Overall, the Faculty of Education will provide the human resources to support the Brantford campus program.

Requirement 13

Based on the information reviewed, the program, as modified, fully satisfies accreditation requirement 13.

The internal controls to preserve the integrity of teacher candidate records relating to the program are those of the Waterloo main campus. The Faculty will continue to maintain physical and virtual records, both internally in the Waterloo and Brantford offices, and centrally at the main University campus.

Requirement 14

Based on the information reviewed, the program, as modified, fully satisfies accreditation requirement 14.

The Faculty is committed to quality assurance of the program at the second location. There is alignment with the multi-campus concept of Wilfrid Laurier University and its goal to

contribute to the communities served by each campus. The Brantford campus is a suitable location for an education program because of its amenities, diverse learning environments, supportive school board/community partners and available faculty and staff with experiences in education.

The Brantford campus provides adequate space for future growth. The interest and involvement of the Grand Erie District School Board and the Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk Catholic District School Board to host practicum placements supports a second location for the Bachelor of Education program to be offered.

The new Brantford campus site is included in the *Strategic Planning Goals of the Faculty of Education* and aligns with Wilfrid Laurier University's vision to expand education programming to the Brantford campus. Laurier's *Faculty Structure Review Report (2020)* recommended that education programs be offered on the Brantford campus. In addition, the *Cyclical Review Report of the Bachelor of Education program (2020)*, authored by external reviewers, provided recommendations for consideration and implementation. The Cyclical Review is a quality assurance measure, and the recommendations will guide further improvement in the program. The survey questions used to collect teacher candidates' perceptions for the Cyclical Review will be administered at the Waterloo campus and again at the Brantford campus once candidates are admitted there.

Other quality assurance measures include ongoing, informal, and formal input and feedback from teacher candidate representatives on the Faculty of Education Divisional Council, faculty and staff on the Bachelor of Education Curriculum Committee, field supervisors, the Teacher Education Federation Liaison Committee, and the Teacher Education Advisory Committee. Membership of all these committees will include representatives of the Brantford site.

Requirement 15

Based on the information reviewed, the program, as modified, fully satisfies accreditation requirement 15.

The Faculty's Teacher Education Advisory Committee (TEAC) meets regularly to address current topics and items related to the Bachelor of Education program. The TEAC includes representatives from school boards surrounding the Brantford area. School superintendents, associate teachers, and school principals from the Grand Erie District School Board and Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk Catholic District School Board will participate on the existing TEAC.

Accreditation Decision

For the aforementioned reasons set out by requirement, the following program, as modified, qualifies for general accreditation without conditions until the existing expiry date of May 30, 2024 or for an amended period of time that is in accordance with Section 15 of Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs:

- Consecutive program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior and Junior/Intermediate divisions, including the Primary/Junior divisions with a focus on teaching French as a Second Language, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree

Ontario College of Teachers
December 29, 2021