



# **Accreditation Decision**

## **Lakehead University Faculty of Education**

### **Substantial Change in Program pertaining to:**

Consecutive program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior and Intermediate/Senior divisions, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree

**Transition Supervisory Officer  
Ontario College of Teachers  
June 10, 2021**

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## **Decision Regarding the Program Change Application Submitted by the Faculty of Education, Lakehead University**

### **Introduction**

The Faculty of Education at Lakehead University (the “Faculty”) submitted a program change application on January 28, 2021 to add areas of study in the Intermediate/Senior (I/S) divisions at the Orillia Campus of the following accredited program of professional education:

- Consecutive program of professional education with areas of study in the Primary/Junior and Intermediate/Senior divisions, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree

Currently, the Orillia site only offers areas of study in the Primary/Junior divisions.

The proposed change for the I/S cohort in Orillia is to make available four of the teachable subject areas currently offered at the Thunder Bay campus.

The Transition Supervisory Officer, 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 substantially changed the character, duration or components of the program of professional education, reviewed the program 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 January 28, 2021
- additional documentation pertaining to Lakehead University Senate Approval of Undergraduate Calendar Changes dated May 19, 2021
- the Accreditation Decision dated December 3, 2019 related to the program
- the regulatory requirements of Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs

## **Accreditation Requirement Findings and Reasons**

### **Unchanged Requirements**

The attestation made by Lakehead University that there are no changes regarding the factual findings for requirements 1,1.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9,11,13 and 15 is accepted. These eleven accreditation requirements remain fully satisfied.

### **Changed Requirements**

Based on the information provided, the Transition Supervisory Officer finds that the program changes, as proposed, fully satisfy the remaining accreditation requirements 3.1, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 as they read on December 3, 2019.

The findings and reasons for the decision on whether the program continues to qualify for accreditation and the facts on which this decision is based follow herein:

#### **Requirement 3.1**

Based on the information reviewed, the program, as modified, fully satisfies accreditation requirement 3.1.

There are no changes regarding the factual findings pertaining to the elements set out in Schedule 1. In establishing a consecutive I/S cohort in Orillia, the Faculty confirms they will be replicating the admission requirements, regulations, courses, practica and structure of the existing consecutive I/S program offered in Thunder Bay.

Inter-campus collaboration will be fostered for faculty members at both sites by working with common course outlines and engaging in professional learning sessions to maintain alignment of the I/S program.

#### **Requirement 6**

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

#### **1. Adding Intermediate/Senior Cohort at an Existing Site - Components**

The proposed change in the format and structure of the program is to add an I/S cohort at the Orillia site. The following general education subjects will be offered in Orillia: English, Geography, History, and Social Sciences – General. These four areas of study are already offered as general education subjects at the Thunder Bay campus.

#### **2. Providing Flexible Delivery Options - Character**

As a temporary measure, until an enrolment threshold is reached, the I/S cohorts in Orillia and Thunder Bay may be combined for the online delivery of teachable subject method courses common to both locations. At no time will the Faculty combine different teachable method courses together. Having the option to offer method courses either face-to-face or online will permit courses to be delivered that might not otherwise have sufficient enrolment numbers to run. Longer term, face-to-face classes will resume when enrolment numbers reach the minimum threshold of 15 candidates.

Changes to requirement 6 could be characterised as changes to the components and character of the program. The proposed changes do not impact satisfaction of requirement 6, as determined in the most recent Accreditation Decision, rendered December 3, 2019.

### **Requirement 8**

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

There are no changes regarding the factual findings for the practicum requirements. The Faculty has established existing partnerships with school boards in the Barrie/Orillia area as well as adjacent school boards. Teacher candidates in the proposed I/S cohort at the Orillia site will complete practicums appropriate to their divisions and teachable subject areas under the supervision of an Ontario Certified Teacher as stated in the Accreditation Committee Decision, December 3, 2019.

### **Requirement 10**

Based on the information reviewed, the program, as modified, fully satisfies accreditation requirement 10.

The Accreditation Decision of December 3, 2019 states, teacher candidates in the I/S divisions undertake method courses in each of the two teaching subject areas for which they are qualifying to teach. They take Part 1 of their first and second teachable subject in Semesters 1 and 2, and they take Part 2 of their first and second teachable subject in Semesters 3 and 4.

I/S teacher candidates at the Orillia campus will select from the following teachable subject areas:

- Geography Parts 1&2
- History Parts 1&2
- English Parts 1&2
- Social Sciences Parts 1&2

The proposed changes to add an I/S cohort at the Orillia site and offer four I/S general education subjects for which the program is already accredited do not impact satisfaction of requirement 10, as determined in the most recent Accreditation Decision, rendered December 3, 2019.

### **Requirement 12**

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

There are no changes regarding the factual findings pertaining to the combination of faculty members teaching in the program. Current faculty and instructors teaching in either Orillia or Thunder Bay hold qualifications and experience appropriate to their teaching assignments.

Five full-time and 16 contract faculty at the Orillia site are certified with Intermediate and/or Senior division qualifications. Capacity for subject expertise is held by one full-time

faculty member who has expertise in Social Science and four contract faculty who bring subject expertise to English, History and Social Science. A combination of expertise in the divisions and components of the program exists at the Orillia site.

**Requirement 14**

Based on the information reviewed, the program, as modified, fully satisfies accreditation requirement 14. While there are no changes regarding the factual findings pertaining to the institution's commitment to continuous improvement and quality assurance, the expansion at the Orillia site is evidence of a measure demonstrating that commitment.

The proposal to add an Intermediate/Senior cohort at the Orillia site was approved by Lakehead University's Faculty of Education Faculty Council on January 15, 2021 and the Senate Academic Committee Quality Assurance Subcommittee on January 28, 2021.

On May 19, 2021, Lakehead University Senate approved the proposal for the Intermediate/Senior Consecutive Program in Orillia as part of its Approval of Undergraduate Calendar Changes.

## **Decision of the Transition Supervisory Officer**

For the reasons set out in the Accreditation Requirement Findings and Reasons above, the following program, as modified, qualifies for general accreditation without conditions until the existing expiry date of December 3, 2026 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 Intermediate/Senior divisions leading to a Bachelor of Education degree

**Transition Supervisory Officer**  
**Ontario College of Teachers**  
**June 10, 2021**