



Ontario  
College of  
Teachers

Ordre des  
enseignantes et  
des enseignants  
de l'Ontario

## **Accreditation Committee Decision**

### **Niagara University College of Education**

### **Accreditation of Enhanced 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

**Accreditation Committee  
Ontario College of Teachers  
April 7, 2016**

## **Accreditation Committee Decision Regarding the Enhanced Teacher Education Program Verification Report Submitted by Niagara University, College of Education**

### **Introduction**

Effective September 1, 2015, Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs made under the *Ontario College of Teachers Act* (the “Accreditation Regulation”), was amended to include new accreditation requirements for programs of professional education. These enhancements were designed to provide beginning teachers with more practical experience, education foundations and exposure to teaching methods that reflect the diverse needs of Ontario students.

In accordance with subsection 15.2 (3) of the Accreditation Regulation, Niagara University was required to submit a verification report to the Accreditation Committee on or before March 1, 2016 to demonstrate that their accredited program of professional education satisfies the amended accreditation requirements as they read on September 1, 2015. For the purposes of this transition, program changes made to meet the amended accreditation requirements were deemed not to constitute a substantial change as described in subsection 10 (2) or section 21 of the Accreditation Regulation.

In accordance with subsection 15.2 (5) of the Accreditation Regulation, the Accreditation Committee is required to review the verification report submitted and issue a decision,

- (a) confirming that the program fully or substantially satisfies the accreditation requirements and confirming the accredited status, or the accredited status with conditions, as the case may be, of the program;
- (b) confirming that the program substantially satisfies the requirements for accreditation and adding conditions for the continued accreditation of the program or changing conditions previously imposed on accreditation; or
- (c) revoking accreditation of the program if the Accreditation Committee finds that the program does not substantially satisfy the requirements for accreditation.

The College of Education at Niagara University submitted a verification report to the Ontario College of Teachers on February 29, 2016 for continued accreditation of the following 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

The verification report includes:

1. The decision of the Accreditation Committee dated June 12, 2009.
2. The At-A-Glance Chart and Core Content Alignment Chart
3. The current Academic Course Calendar and the Practicum Handbook.

4. The attestation by Niagara University, College of Education which confirms that the facts and reasons upon which the Accreditation Committee rendered its most recent accreditation decision for Niagara University, College of Education that preceded the verification report remain true, correct and complete.
5. OCT Core Content Alignment Report

By virtue of the authority granted under the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996*, and the Accreditation Regulation, the Accreditation Committee reviewed the verification report to determine if the program of professional education continues to qualify for accreditation.

In making its decision, the Accreditation Committee considered the verification report submitted by the provider and the regulatory requirements of section 9 of the Accreditation Regulation, as they read on September 1, 2015 following their modification in accordance with the new requirements for Ontario programs of professional education.

## **Decision of the Accreditation Committee at its Meeting of April 7, 2016**

The reasons for the committee's decision and the facts upon which it is based follow herein:

### **Findings**

The Accreditation Committee reviewed the verification report documentation provided by the College of Education, Niagara University, and based on this evidence, the committee finds that the program as submitted fully satisfies the following enhanced program requirements:

- i. the program is at least four academic semesters, including the days of practical experience
- ii. the program includes a minimum of 80 days of practical experience, appropriate to the format and structure of the program, in schools or other situations approved by the College for observation and practice teaching, and
- iii. the program enables teacher candidates to acquire knowledge and skills in all of the elements set out in Schedule 1 of the Accreditation Regulation.

The committee accepts the attestation made by the Interim Dean of the College of Education, Niagara University that there are no other substantial program changes with the exception of those described in Section C of the verification report.

The committee has reviewed the reported program changes and finds that all accreditation requirements remain fully satisfied.

## **Decision of the Accreditation Committee**

Pursuant to its authority under subsection 15.2 (5) of the Accreditation Regulation, and based on the reasons set out above, the Accreditation Committee issues the following decision.

### **Confirmation of Accreditation**

The Accreditation Committee finds that the following program of professional education offered by the College of Education, Niagara University fully satisfies the accreditation requirements of Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs as they read on September 1, 2015:

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

The Accreditation Committee confirms general accreditation of this program to continue until June 12, 2016.

**Accreditation Committee**  
**Ontario College of Teachers**  
**April 7, 2016**