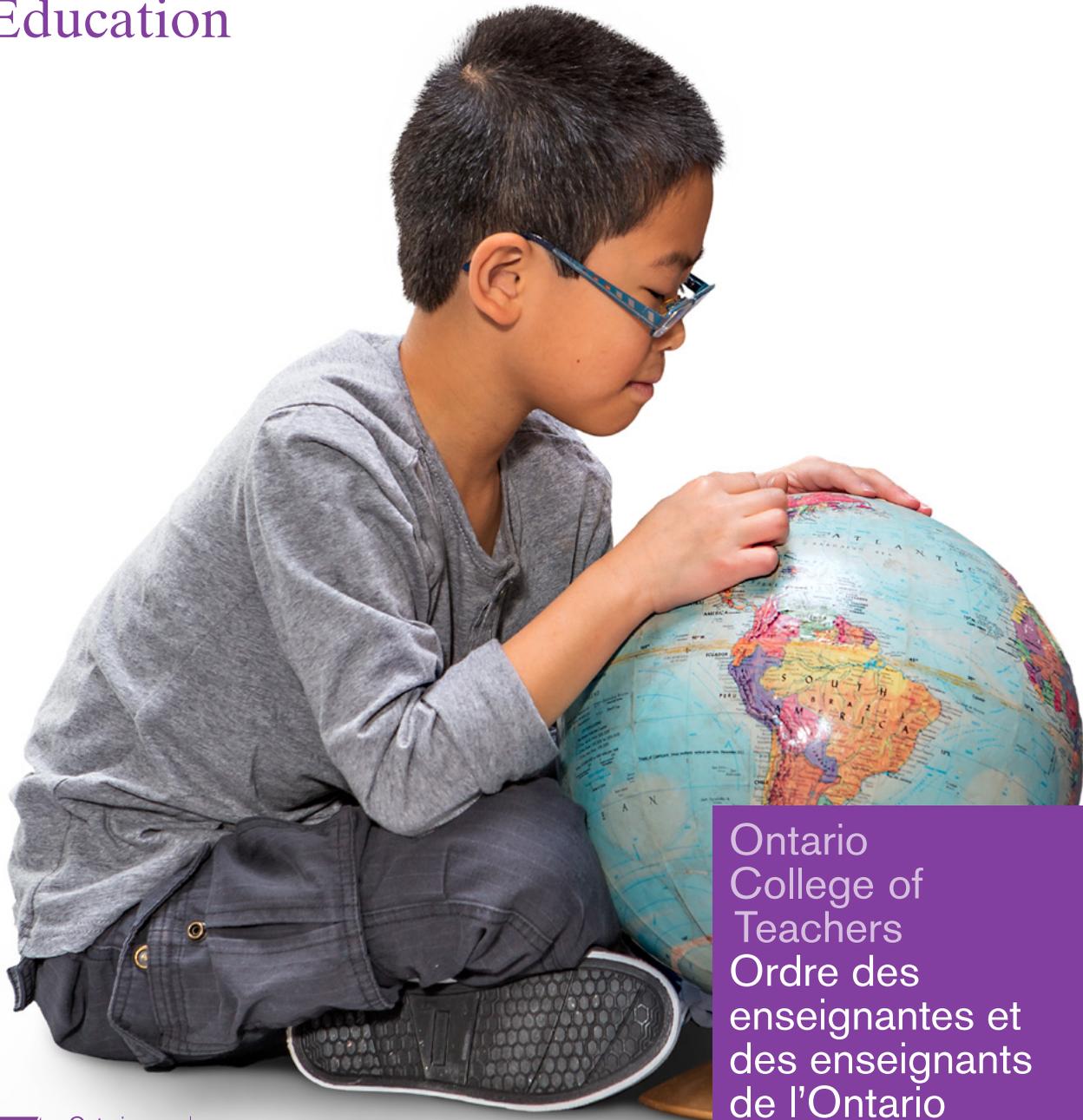


Looking at... Enhanced Teacher Education



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Teachers

Setting the Standard
for Great Teaching

Looking at... Enhanced Teacher Education

The enhanced teacher education program starts September 2015.
Here's what you need to know.

Exciting changes in education are coming

The programs that people take to learn how to teach at Ontario's faculties of education are changing. As of September 1, 2015, a new, enhanced program will provide:

- four semesters (up from two)
- more time for practice teaching (80 days minimum, up from 40)
- greater focus on students' mental health and well-being, parent engagement and communication, and special education among other core elements
- greater attention to diversity in Ontario classrooms and knowledge of the Ontario context a greater understanding about how to teach with technology.

Why it's needed

Based on research of newly certified teachers over the past 10 years and an extensive review of teacher qualifications, the Ontario College of Teachers recommended significant changes to initial teacher education programs in Ontario. As part of a comprehensive review of teacher qualifications in 2006, the College recommended a longer initial teacher education program.

In June, Ontario's Ministry of Education, working in partnership with the College, announced plans to lengthen the duration of the program to give future teachers more practical experience and greater exposure to teaching methods that will help teachers support diverse student needs.

Positive change for everyone

The changes affect those who intend to apply to teacher education programs in the fall of 2015 and those who apply to the College for certification, who have been educated in Ontario or outside Canada. Eventually, all new teachers in Ontario and all students in Ontario's publicly funded schools will be positively affected.

Program enhancements include...

Prospective teachers will spend more time working with the Ontario curriculum, studying classroom management and how to use research data and new technology. They will also benefit from an increased emphasis on supporting students with special learning needs and those from diverse communities. See the [regulation](#).

Helping teachers in the marketplace

Ontario faculties will accept about 4,500 students into the new program in September 2015. That's half the number of teachers who are newly certified each year now. The majority of graduates will be ready for certification in 2017. This should afford Ontario Certified Teachers who are unemployed or underemployed greater opportunities to find employment.

Building on a foundation of success

Ongoing learning is a professional responsibility. Ontario teachers routinely augment their initial teacher education program by taking additional qualification courses now.

The new program builds on Ontario's strong history of excellence in teacher education. It reflects discussion, debate and the collective desires expressed by Ontario educators over many years. As well, it reflects the reality and changes in today's Ontario classrooms.

College provides leadership and support

As the regulator of Ontario's teaching profession, the Ontario College of Teachers has an instrumental role to play in the success of the new program. The College:

- provides guidance to the faculties about what must be included in the program
- supports the faculties to develop creative, individual approaches to teach Ontario's curriculum

- holds faculties accountable to meet the new standards through its accreditation process
- establishes the criteria to certify teachers based on the revised teacher education program
- provides information to the public and the profession about the changes.

Students benefit from great teaching and the excellent preparation of teachers.

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