



# Memo

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**Date:** November 15, 2011

**To:** Providers, Programs of Professional Education

**From:** Michael Salvatori, OCT  
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer

**Subject:** **Multi-Session Programs of Professional Education /  
Certification Requirements Effective May 2011**

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When the College's new Teachers' Qualifications Regulation was filed last year, I highlighted some of the significant changes in a memorandum, including information regarding the certification of candidates in multi-session programs. Providers were asked to comply with certain changes as of May 2011.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with additional clarification about these changes and to ensure candidates enrolled in a multi-session program continue to qualify for a Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration. I will also outline the process by which providers can be assured that the multi-session program they offer continues to meet the requirements for accreditation.

## **Eligibility for Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration**

For a teacher candidate to obtain a Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration, a first session in a multi-session program must be completed. The regulation now defines the types of credits that must be included in the first session of a multi-session program as:

- (a) nine credits are in a methodology course in an area of study and three credits are in a foundation course, or
- (b) six credits are in a methodology course in an area of study and six credits are in a foundation course.

**Providers should therefore ensure that the first session of multi-session programs contain the prescribed number and type of courses. This requirement was effective May 2011.**

We recognize that course names and content in the broad areas of foundations and methods vary from institution to institution. The College continues to identify **foundations** as courses in the history, philosophy and psychology of education, and has identified **teaching methodology** as courses in how to teach students in particular grades or subject areas.

### **New Practicum Requirements for Program Completion**

Prior to May 2010, candidates in multi-session programs were required to complete one year of successful teaching experience to meet program requirements.

As of May 2010, candidates are now required to complete a practicum of a minimum of 40 days that meets the requirements set out in the College's Accreditation Regulation.

- The practicum must include observation and practice teaching in an instructional setting in schools or other situations that use the Ontario curriculum or in situations approved by the College.
- The practicum enables every student to participate in settings related to each division and at least one of the subject areas of the program that are relevant to the student.
- An experienced teacher supervises the students and assesses their practicum.
- A faculty member is appointed as an advisor for each student.

These practicum requirements must be satisfied before program completion but not necessarily before the completion of the first session.

### **Provisions for candidates who began programs before May 20, 2010 and May 31, 2011**

As of May 2011, providers must comply with the new requirements for a multi-session program in order to report candidates for certification. However, the regulation also identifies the certification requirements for candidates who began a multi-session program before these changes were in effect.

A candidate who began a program leading to a Certificate of Qualification (Limited) or a Certificate of Qualification (Limited, Restricted) for teaching a Native language before May 20, 2010 and who fulfils the requirements for the certificate set out in the former Ontario Regulation 184/97 (Teachers

Qualifications) before it was revoked, could be granted a Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration by the College.

A candidate who began a program leading to a Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration after May 20, 2010 and before May 31, 2011 and who fulfils the requirements for a Certificate of Qualification (Limited) or a Certificate of Qualification (Limited, Restricted) for teaching a Native language could be granted a Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration.

Current versions of all regulations are available through e-laws, which can be accessed from the College's web site at [www.oct.ca](http://www.oct.ca) → About the College → Education Legislation.

### **Accreditation of Multi-Session Programs**

To ensure that the multi-session program you provide continues to be accredited as a multi-session program, the courses in the first session of the multi-session program must include the minimum course complement. If changes to your program have been made to meet the new requirements for the first session of the multi-session program, or if you already comply with the changes, please confirm this information in writing for our files by December 31, 2011. Send the notification to Janis Leonard, OCT, Manager of Accreditation. You may also wish to contact Janis Leonard at 416-961-8800, ext. 853 or toll-free in Ontario at 1-888-534-2222, ext.853 if you have any questions about this process.

If you have any questions regarding the regulatory requirements for multi-session programs, please contact David Tallo, Manager of Teacher Qualification Regulation Implementation at 416-961-8800, ext. 609 or toll-free in Ontario at 1-888-534-2222, ext. 609.

I hope that this information is helpful. Thank you for your co-operation as we continue to work together to implement changes to the Teachers' Qualifications Regulation.



Michael Salvatori, OCT  
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer