



## Memo

---

**Date:** April 19, 2016

**To:** Additional Qualification Providers  
Deans and Directors, Faculties of Education

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

**Subject:** **Principal's Qualifications Requirements - Master's Degree**

---

Ontario teacher education providers have introduced a number of new and innovative enhanced programs. This has occurred as all teacher education programs have been expanded to four semesters.

I would like to highlight how those initial teacher education programs that lead to master's degrees should be viewed when dealing with Principal's Qualifications admissions.

There are a number of pathways to meet entrance requirements for Principal's Qualifications outlined in the College's Teachers' Qualifications regulation. Some pathways include the completion or partial completion of a master's degree.

In order for a master's degree, or courses in a master's degree, to be used for entry to Principal's Qualifications, these must be additional to any courses that were required to meet a candidate's initial College certification requirements. This is outlined in subsection 32 (2) of Regulation 176/10, Teachers' Qualifications.

I am reiterating this requirement, as some Ontario providers are considering or have implemented initial teacher education programs that lead to a master's degree, and candidates may attempt to present these to gain entry to Principal's Qualifications. Providers of initial teacher education and Principal's Qualifications should be aware of this regulatory requirement, and the College will continue to apply this provision. We expect that Principal's Qualifications providers will continue to observe this in their admissions practices.

You should note that this requirement relies on the certification requirements that were in place at the time the College had issued candidates' Certificate of Qualification and Registration. Generally speaking, candidates who obtained a Certificate of Qualification and Registration before September 1, 2015 were required to have completed a one-year / two-semester initial teacher education program. Candidates who obtained a Certificate after September 1, 2015 are required to complete the four semester program. In these scenarios, master's degree courses would need to be in addition to the basic duration requirements at the time of certification.

A few scenarios may help reinforce a shared understanding of the College's expectations. For example:

- a candidate who holds a four semester master's degree, that was used to meet the College's current certification requirement of a four semester teacher education program: Those credits in the candidate's master's degree would be viewed by the College to have been used in their entirety for initial certification, and could not be "double-counted" towards meeting requirements for principals qualifications.

The candidate would need to complete additional credits in a master's degree to satisfy Principal's Qualifications prerequisites.

- **a candidate who holds a master's degree that was used to meet the College's former certification requirement:** (before the introduction of the enhanced program on September 1, 2015), could use any of the credits that were additional to the one-year initial teacher education requirement that was in place at the time they were certified towards Principal's Qualifications prerequisites.

For example, for an institution where 30 credits comprises an academic year, if the candidate completed 48 credits in their master's degree, one year (30 credits) would be considered to meet initial certification requirements, and the remaining 18 credits could be considered towards Principal's Qualifications.

If you are unclear about whether a candidate for Principal's Qualifications had completed a two-semester or a four-semester initial teacher education program, I encourage you to contact the College's Membership Services staff.

I hope this information is of assistance, and if you have any questions, please contact Linda Zaks-Walker, OCT, Director of Membership Services, at 416-961-8800, extension 410 (or toll-free in Ontario at 1-888-534-2222), or by email at [lzakswalker@oct.ca](mailto:lzakswalker@oct.ca).

Sincerely,

Michael Salvatori, OCT  
Chief Executive Officer and Registrar

Copy: Linda Zaks-Walker, OCT  
Roch Gallien, OCT

MS/DT-mmc-spa