



Ontario College of Teachers
Ordre des enseignantes et des enseignants de l'Ontario

Memorandum

Date: December 22, 1999

To: Ministry of Education
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
Qualifications Evaluation Council of Ontario
Various Education Stakeholders

From: Margaret Wilson, Registrar

Subject: **“Degree Equivalent” Designation On Certificates**

When the College of Teachers was established, we made a commitment to provide the teaching profession with accurate and up-to-date records of the qualification of all our members. As part of this commitment, we have engaged in an ongoing review of record keeping practices.

One of these reviews recently brought to our attention a practice by the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training involving the use of the term “Degree Equivalent”.

In most cases, the academic requirement for certification as a teacher in Ontario is a university degree and the completion of a teacher education program. However, some types of certification do not require a university degree. For example, those who hold one of the following forms of certification may not necessarily also hold an acceptable university degree from a recognized institution:

- Elementary School Teachers Certificates, Standard 1, 2 and 3 obtained under previous regulations and not requiring a completed degree for admission to the teacher education program.

- Technological Studies (e.g. Construction – Trowel Trades)
- Commercial/Vocational Certificates
- Certification provided in former regulations for teaching individual subjects such as Music, Industrial Arts, Physical Education etc.
- Certification provided in current regulations for teaching individual subjects such as Native Language as a Second Language, Dance, The Deaf, Trainable Retarded and leading to a Certificate of Qualification – Restricted.
- Certificate of Qualification valid in the Primary and Junior divisions for those of Native Ancestry and not requiring a degree for admission to the teacher education program.

In some cases, however, the ministry may have entered “Degree Equivalent” in these teachers’ records in order to allow the inputting of qualifications into their computer system. This entry was not intended to appear as a qualification on ministry issued certificates but it was on the electronic file.

In general, the Certificates of Qualification issued by the Ontario College of Teachers shows all information contained in a teacher’s record. “Degree Equivalent” appeared on some certificates because it was an entry in a teacher’s record as we received it from the ministry. In 1997 and 1998, a number of teachers received Certificates of Qualification which contain the designation “Degree Equivalent” for the reasons described above. In their case it does not represent tangible credential or mean that the teacher holds a credential that is equivalent to a degree for purposes of salary category placement or for admission to an academic program.

The designation “Degree Equivalent” will no longer appear on Certificates of Qualification. The College has the authority to enter degrees on the Certificate of Qualification only when conferred degree transcripts are received from accredited universities. This reflects the regulatory mandate of a licensing body.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Linda Genesi-Williams , Manager of Evaluation Services, at 416-961-8800 or toll free 1-888-534-2222.

Sincerely,



Margaret Wilson
Registrar

LGW/ck-eval