



Ontario
College of
Teachers

Ordre des enseignantes
et des enseignants
de l'Ontario

Briefing Note

Authority to Review Additional Qualification Changes

Issue

Amendments to the Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs Regulation (O. Reg. 347/02) (“Accreditation Regulation”) and General Regulation (O. Reg 563/21) are required in order to transfer the authority to determine whether Additional Qualifications (AQs) continue to qualify for accreditation from the Accreditation Committee to the Standards of Practice and Education Committee (“SPE Committee”). This transfer of authority would accurately reflect the work and distinct roles of each committee. The authority to grant initial accreditation to AQs would remain with the Registrar.

Background

The Accreditation Regulation establishes requirements related to the accreditation of pre-service teacher education programs and the accreditation of in-service AQs.

With respect to pre-service teacher education programs, the Accreditation Committee has the authority (under Part III of the Accreditation Regulation) to grant accreditation to these programs as well as review whether they continue to qualify for accreditation should there be changes to the programs or providers.

Part IV of the Accreditation Regulation sets out requirements related to in-service AQ

accreditation. The Registrar has the initial authority to accredit AQs, but the authority to review changes to providers or programs resides with the Accreditation Committee. The authority to review changes is described in greater detail below and it is what should reside with the SPE Committee instead of the Accreditation Committee:

Change in Circumstances of the Provider - Section 32 of the Accreditation Regulation allows the Accreditation Committee to review an AQ if there has been a change in circumstances with respect to the provider of the AQ. A change in circumstances occurs if:

- (a) the provider of the program has lost its professional accreditation as an educational institution in a jurisdiction in which it operates;
- (b) the legal authority of the provider to operate the program is suspended or revoked; or
- (c) the provider has ceased to provide the program.

If one of these changes has occurred, the Accreditation Committee is required to revoke the accreditation of the provider’s pre-service programs and AQs.

Substantial Changes to the Program - Section 33 of the Accreditation Regulation sets out that the Accreditation Committee must conduct a review of an AQ if there is a substantial change in its duration,

character, or components; the program no longer meets accreditation requirements; or the program has failed to meet a condition of accreditation. If such a change occurs, the Accreditation Committee (or Committee panel) conducts a review and the accreditation of the AQ is confirmed, denied or conditions are imposed.

Proposed Direction

The authority to review changes in circumstances or substantial changes for AQs should reside with the SPE Committee instead of the Accreditation Committee.

The Accreditation Regulation should continue to provide that the Registrar accredit AQs while the SPE Committee would have a new authority to review changes in circumstances and substantial changes. This includes decisions made by the SPE Committee that require the Registrar to revoke or add conditions to AQ accreditation.

The SPE Committee focuses on in-service whereas the Accreditation Committee focuses on pre-service. Such a transfer would respect the distinct work and roles of each committee. For example, a duty of the SPE Committee is to review and approve AQ guidelines, as set out in the General Regulation:

S. 27 (4) (d) reviewing and approving policy guidelines for programs of additional qualification;

By contrast, the Accreditation Committee's authority and work is with respect to accreditation of initial teacher education programs. Despite this clear focus on initial teacher education programs, the duties of the Accreditation Committee, as set out in regulation,

include a review authority for AQs – an authority that ought to be solely within the purview of the SPE Committee:

S. 5 (d) determining, at the direction of the Registrar and in the circumstances permitted by the accreditation regulation, if accredited programs of professional education and accredited programs of additional qualification continue to qualify for accreditation;
[emphasis added]

This underlined duty in the General Regulation would also require amendment to transfer it from the Accreditation Committee to the SPE Committee in order to give effect to the corresponding transfer of the AQ change review authority in the Accreditation Regulation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approve the following motion:

The Accreditation Regulation (O. Reg. 347/02) and General Regulation (O. Reg. 563/21) be amended to transfer the authority to review and determine if existing Additional Qualification programs continue to qualify for accreditation from the Accreditation Committee to the Standards of Practice and Education Committee, as set out in Appendix A.

Next Steps

The motion above was approved by the Accreditation Committee on March 3, 2022 and the Standards of Practice and Education Committee on March 21, 2022. Should Council approve of this direction, College and Ministry staff would prepare regulatory amendments for Council's consideration on a date to be determined.

Prepared by:
Policy and Research Unit

Date:
April 22, 2022