



October 8, 2019

To: All Teacher Education Candidates

From: Michael Owen

Dean, Faculty of Education

Subj: New Certification Requirement: Math Proficiency Test

As you are aware, the Ontario Government has enacted legislation that requires all individuals who complete their teacher education qualifications after March 30, 2020 to successfully complete a Math Proficiency Test.

You should monitor the websites of the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) (<http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/math-proficiency-test/Pages/questions-answers-math-proficiency-test.aspx#6>) and the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) (https://www.oct.ca/becoming-a-teacher/requirements/mathematics-test?sc_lang=en&). The EQAO is mandate by the government to develop and to manage the test. Faculties of Education have been asked to administer the test.

EQAO has a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which is updated on a regular basis.

The details of the Test are contained in the EQAO website. Of particular interest for teacher candidates (TCs) is the structure of the Test. It will have two components:

- The mathematics curriculum component, approximately 50 questions or 70% of the test, relates to knowledge of mathematics content based on *The Ontario Curriculum*, from Grades 3 to 11 (inclusive). Questions will include key concepts taught in both the elementary and secondary grades.
- The pedagogy component, 20 questions or (30% of the test, will focus on foundational understanding of mathematics assessment, planning and the ability to facilitate student learning specific to mathematics. Questions will be tied to pedagogical policy of the Ontario Ministry of Education (e.g., *Growing Success, Learning for All*, front matter of the Ontario mathematics curriculum documents).

Test takers will be expected to achieve 70% on both components of the test to have a passing mark.

Following a meeting of the Ontario Association of Deans of Education, held in September 2019, the following information was made available:

- Individuals must have an OCT registration number to be able to register to take the Test.
- The Test will be an “on-line” test but taken in an invigilated/proctored environment.

- Individuals who need accommodations will be required to identify such required accommodations during the registration process.
- EQAO will develop online preparation and support materials, including practice questions, that will be made available to help individuals taking the test
- EQAO has indicated that there may be three (3) test periods in 2020:
 - January
 - March
 - July
- EQAO has suggested that there may not be **one** test day but that each site **may** have a number of test days or multi-tests periods on one day.
- Test takers may register (how is to be determined) to take the Test at any Faculty of Education test site in Ontario (e.g., Teacher Candidates may take the Test at either FOE campuses or at another Ontario Faculty of Education **if** they register to take the Test at another centre.)
- **The January test period:**
 - The January Test period is an opportunity for EQAO and the test centres to work.
 - The January Test will be administered at no cost to test takers.
 - Test takers, if they pass the test, will not be required to retake the test.
 - If test takers do not pass the test, they may retake the Test in March or July at no cost.
- **How many times may an individual take the test?**
 - There is, at this time, no limit on the number of times an individual may register for and take the test.
 - Test takers, if they pass the test, will not be required to retake the Test.
 - If test takers do not pass the test on their first attempt (excluding January), they will be required to retake the test to meet the certification requirements and will be required to pay for that and any subsequent tests.
- **Schedule/Process for Tests**

The process, as we currently understand it, is as follows

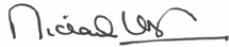
 - Take the Test in January:
 - No cost
 - Pass: you meet the criterion for the OCT certification
 - Do not pass: you need to retake the Test
 - Take the Test in March
 - No cost
 - Pass: you meet the criterion for the OCT certification
 - Do not pass: you need to retake the Test
 - Subsequent Tests
 - First time test takers: no cost
 - 2nd (or higher) test takers: cost To Be Determined
 - Pass: you meet the criterion for the OCT certification
 - Do not pass: you need to retake the Test
- Deans of Education have identified a number of administrative and technical issues that need to be resolved prior to agreeing to administer the Test. We wish to ensure that Teacher Candidates' experience is one without technical glitches.

The Faculty of Education is identifying specific ways in which we can support Brock Teacher Candidates as they prepare for the Test. However, Teacher Candidate's knowledge of and competency in mathematics (grade 3 to 11) is the responsibility of the Teacher Candidate. Once we all have more information on the

content of the Test (early November 2019), we will assess how to support our Teacher Candidates over the next few months.

I assure you that the Deans of Education at Ontario universities are monitoring this item closely and are advocating on behalf of Teacher Candidates.

I will update you as I learn more. I will work through the Teacher Education program director as well as your instructors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Wong", with a horizontal line underneath.