

Request for Program Discontinuation

Summary:	
Name of Program being Discontinued:	B.Ed. Route II and B.Ed. Specialist
Academic Unit housing the Program:	Department of Educational Studies, Continuing Teacher Education
Date Discontinuation to become effective:	June 30, 2024
Name of person submitting:	Michael Owen, CTE Program Director
Email of person submitting:	mowen@brocku.ca
Date of Submission:	March 25, 2024

The Request for Program Discontinuation shall include:

Rationale for the Proposed Discontinuation
<p>Provide a clear rationale for the request, documenting the results of program committee discussions.</p> <p>At Brock, students enrolled in AQ and ABQ courses may enrol in B.Ed. Route II and B.Ed. Specialist programs. With the current numbers, these programs are subject to FHB III Section 15, Program Review and Discontinuation, as non-viable programs.</p> <p>Since the implementation of the program in 1974, nearly 600 students have been enrolled in the B.Ed. Route II. In the early years (up to 1999), the B.Ed. Route II provided a pathway for teachers' colleges' students who did not have a B.Ed. degree and many of whom only have one or two years of teachers' college education to be able to upskill, to obtain a B.Ed., and to improve their wages. Since 1999, the numbers of students enrolled declined significantly and since 2000 there have been less than 10 (usually only one of two) students, if any, enrolled in the program. The total number of students since 2000 is 33 or ~1.3 per annum. These numbers could identify the B.Ed. Route II for review under the FHB III C. 14 (14. Process for Ensuring Program Viability). Hence, from an enrolment perspective, it is an appropriate time to discontinue the program and to consider how any interest in the program might be accommodated under Professional and Continuing Studies (non-credit).</p> <p>Continuing Teacher Education and the Faculty of Education have requested that all Additional Qualification and Additional Basic Qualification courses be approved as non-credit courses by the Non-Credit Advisory Committee. Approval was granted by the Non-credit Advisory Committee on March 22, 2024.</p> <p>The provision of continuing education courses and programs for teachers in Ontario is a highly competitive environment. There are approximately 50 providers, including university faculties of education (public and private), teacher federations, Ontario colleges, Indigenous institutes, school districts, and not-for-profit organizations. Of these providers only two currently offer Additional Qualification (AQ) and Additional Basic Qualification (ABQ) courses as for credit. These providers are Brock University and University of Ottawa. Other institutions and organizations also offer professional development options for teachers (e.g., Principal Qualification Program and Supervisory Officers Qualification programs) and teachers-in-training.</p> <p>Individuals who wish to take AQ and ABQ courses can take courses from any approved provider and, upon successful completion, have these courses recorded on their Certification of Qualification (CoQ) with the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT).</p>

All AQ and ABQ courses are developed to a standard template established by the OCT. These courses are all approved and accredited by the OCT. If courses do not meet the requirements of the OCT, they are not accredited and, hence, cannot be offered. While instructors have some latitude in how courses might be offered, they are very much constrained in what can be offered (see <https://www.oct.ca/members/additional-qualifications/overview>).

Details of Resource Implications

Describe how resources of the program (human, physical and budgetary) will be redistributed.

Resource implications

Once approved by ARC, UPC and Senate, for the immediate future (Academic Year 2024—2025), the resource implications will be minimal. The FOE, the Registrar’s Office (RO), and the Continuing and Professional Studies Unit (CPS) will need to complete (consultations are well underway to accomplish this transition):

- administrative transfer of future (July 1, 2024) courses registrations from the RO to CPS, including but not limited to registration, fee payments, student record tracking, and reporting to the Ontario College of Teachers;
- ensure records for students enrolled in courses prior to July 1, 2024, are managed in accordance with existing policies and procedures;
- work with Finance to transition payment (tuition) from existing processes to the PCS registration and payment system, ensuring that the FOE is credited appropriately for revenues and expenditures;
- work with Finance and [Institutional Planning, Analysis & Performance \(IPAP\)](#) on any implications of these modifications for Brock reports to the Ministry of Education;
- work with Finance on any implications of these modifications for the 2024-2025 budget (e.g., allocation of central costs (scholarships, etc.);
- advise existing students of the changes and the implications, if any, for future AQ and ABQ registrations;
- update all websites and links to reflect the proposed modifications;
- working with CTE staff on changes, if any, to existing position responsibilities and reporting lines.

Termination Plan and Timing of Discontinuation

A phased closure plan and timeline for the program discontinuation, taking into account the requirements of those students currently enrolled in the program to allow them to meet requirements for graduation.

- Student Implications:
 - The number of students affected is small (<10 over the last five years).
 - The only students who might seek to complete the equivalent of a B.Ed. Route II are non-degree holding teachers accredited through our Technological Teacher Education stream. The phasing out/removal of the B.Ed. Route II creates an opportunity for the Teacher Education Program to establish an innovative reverse consecutive education program (i.e., once/if these students obtain an undergraduate degree, allow them to upgrade their Technological Teacher certificate to a B.Ed.)
- Resources of the program (human, physical and fiscal):
 - Human Resources will remain unchanged for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
 - All administrative staff will remain in the Faculty of Education and will continue to administer the “non-credit” AQ and ABQ courses and programs.
 - All instructional staff (part time instructors) will continue to teach AQ and ABQ courses, subject to regular review and renewal processes, as outlined in the CTE Policies and Procedures (2023-2024).
 - Fiscal resources will remain in the FOE, with the CTE program moving to a full cost recovery model.
 - Existing physical resources (offices and computers) will remain dedicated to the modified CTE program.
- Evidence and documentation of consultation (see Appendix).
- Certification from the Dean that the proposed discontinuation is appropriate and in line with the strategic direction of the Faculty (See Letter from the Dean, Faculty of Education).

Evidence and Documentation of Consultation

Include the results of any consultation with other units (academic and/or administrative) that will be impacted by the program discontinuation.

The CTE Advisory Committee voted to recommend this change to the university, following the procedures in the Faculty Handbook. The vote of the CTE Advisory Committee on the motion:

Do you support the move of AQ/ABQ/PQP courses within CTE from credit to non-credit?

In favour	4
Not in favour	0
Abstention	2

Thereafter, the CTE program director sought the agreement of the Department of Educational Studies for the following motion:

That the Department of Educational Studies supports the recommendation of the Continuing Teacher Education Advisory Committee to move AQ and ABQ courses within CTE from credit to non-credit.

The Department of Educational Studies voted on the motion. The results were

In favour	31
Not in favour	0
Abstention	10

No other units will be affected by this discontinuation, except the Registrar's Office (reduced workload) and PCS (increased workload associated with not-for-credit offerings).

We have had on-going consultations with both units since the spring 2023.

The Dean of Education has consulted with the of Faculties. No concerns or objections were registered.

Decanal Comments

Include certification that the proposed discontinuation is appropriate and in line with the strategic direction of the Faculty or Faculties.

For **undergraduate programs**, the relevant Dean(s) shall be the Dean(s) of the Faculty within which the program resides.

For **graduate programs**, the relevant Deans shall be the Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs and the Dean(s) of the relevant Faculty or Faculties.

Please see the attached letter of support from Interim Dean, Faculty of Education.

Date: March 20, 2024

To: Dr. Brian Power, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic

Cc: Academic Review Committee,
Michael Owen, Director, Continuing Teacher Education

From: Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee
Interim Dean, Faculty of Education

Subj: **Request for B.Ed. Route II and B.Ed. Specialist programs discontinuation**

I am writing to confirm that I have reviewed the proposal for the discontinuation of the B.Ed. Route II and B.Ed. Specialist programs and support this request.

I have consulted with the Deans across campus and no Dean has expressed any concerns with the proposed discontinuation of the two programs. No students in programs across their faculties have their requirements or electives met through taking Additional Qualifications (AQ) and Additional Basic Qualifications (ABQ) courses, which make up the two-degree routes to be discontinued.

For your information and that of the Academic Review Committee (ARC), once/if, the programs are approved to be discontinued, a submission to UPC for the removal of the ABQ and AQ courses from the undergraduate calendar will be made.

With the discontinuation of the B.Ed. Route II and B.Ed. Specialist programs, and removal of courses from the Undergraduate Calendar, the ABQ and AQ courses will become part of non-credit course offerings within the Professional and Continuing Studies (PCS) portfolio. This change will enhance access for Ontario certified teachers, and beyond, to high quality continuing and professional education.

I look forward to meeting with the ARC to respond to any questions that they might have.

Respectfully,

