



Ontario
College of
Teachers

Ordre des
enseignantes et
des enseignants
de l'Ontario

Memo

Date: March 23, 2015

To: Deans, Faculties of Education
Registrars, Faculties of Education

From: Michael Salvatori, OCT
Chief Executive Officer and Registrar

Subject: **Enhanced Teacher Education Program Certification
Changes and Uncertified Ontario Graduates**

With the September 1, 2015 start to the enhanced teacher education program approaching, we want to ensure that as many teachers who are currently qualified register with the College by that date. To support this, we are providing up-to-date information to communicate with your staff, and asking for your help.

The College will post this information, including this memo and other administrative notices of importance to your staff, on its FacultyPlus platform. We encourage you and your staff to visit the site regularly.

Your Past Graduates

Contacting graduates who have never registered with the College is an important part of this transition period.

In our last memo, we provided you a list of people you had reported to the College who had not yet applied. Attached is an updated list.

We are aware that you may have past graduates whose names might not appear on the lists as they might not have been reported to the College. For example, some faculties might have withheld a report if the candidate did not provide a Social Insurance Number (SIN) or College Registration ID Number (Reg ID) to enable you to report them to the College. As a result, these graduates might not be aware of the changes that will affect them in September, and we would greatly appreciate your assistance in identifying these individuals.

Could you please review your files of past graduates to identify and inform those who would benefit from registering with the College now?

Students Currently Enrolled in Programs

Please advise all students in the 2014-15 consecutive teacher education program that they must be certified before September 1, 2015 to be considered under the current requirements. If they are not certified before September 1, 2015, the new enhanced teacher education program requirements will apply.

We estimate that there are more than 4,000 students in a teacher education program now who have not yet applied for certification. It cannot be overstated: Apply now or expect to have to do additional coursework to become certified later.

By encouraging your students to apply now, they can avoid possible delays and additional costs. The application process can take time and the deadline is fast approaching. Could you let your teacher candidates know that they should apply for College certification before they graduate?

Concurrent Programs

Students enrolled in concurrent teacher education programs on August 31, 2015 qualify to apply under the existing rules and would not be expected to complete the enhanced teacher education program. I would like to emphasize that the expectation remains that candidates would apply for certification in the same year in which they complete the program and in which the College receives your report of completion. The provision was not put in place to allow candidates to wait until 2022 to apply for certification if they would have otherwise been eligible in an earlier year.

Exceptional Circumstances

Students who are unable to complete the 2014-15 consecutive program before September 1, 2015, may still qualify under current program certification requirements.

Any student who was enrolled in an Ontario program of professional education on or before August 31, 2015 who was unable to complete it by August 31, 2015, is eligible to be certified under the current requirements if the inability to complete the program is due – in the College Registrar's opinion – to an exceptional circumstance, and the individual meets pre-enhanced program certification requirements before September 1, 2022. Students with exceptional circumstances should contact the College for further information.

In the absence of such an exceptional circumstance, a student in an accredited consecutive program will be considered eligible for certification under the pre-enhanced program requirements if they are admitted to the program as of August 31, 2014 and are enrolled in and complete at least half of the program as of August 31, 2015.

These students have to successfully complete the program and meet pre-enhanced program certification requirements prior to September 1, 2022 for the exemption to apply. Deans are asked to notify Linda Zaks-Walker, OCT, Director of Membership Services by email at lzakswalker@oct.ca, or by telephone at 416-961-8800, Ext. 410 (toll-free in Ontario at 1-888-534-2222), of applicants who will be seeking certification under this provision as soon as they become aware of these situations.

For the purposes of all enhanced program exemption clauses in regulation, the date of program completion is the date the degree is conferred.

Transcripts

Teacher education program transcripts for graduates from programs ending in the spring or summer of 2015 should be received by the College by July 1, if possible.

For applicants who complete their teacher education program before September 1, 2015, but will not graduate until after that date, the College will accept a teacher education transcript sent directly by the institution without a degree conferral statement provided the transcript indicates that the degree requirements for the program of professional education have been met ("degree requirements met" or "program complete") or the Registrar, by separate cover letter, confirms that the program has been completed and specifies the title of the degree and the date that the degree will be conferred. These transcripts may be sent in bulk with one accompanying letter covering all the transcripts enclosed with the letter from the Registrar. The College will proceed to certification prior to September 1, 2015 provided it receives all of the other necessary documents.

Applicants with positive declarations or degrees from outside Ontario should arrange to have their documents sent to the College immediately to avoid delays in application processing.

Checklist for Students

As a reminder, our previous memo included a helpful checklist that you may want to share and review with your students. I have attached a copy of this for your reference and would encourage you to use any of the text or information it contains in your own information bulletins.

If you have questions or require more information, please email us at info@oct.ca, call Client Services at 416-961-8800 or toll-free in Ontario at 1-888-534-2222, or visit our website at www.oct.ca.

Sincerely,

Michael Salvatori, OCT
Chief Executive Officer and Registrar

Encl.

Copy: Michelle Longlade, OCT
David Tallo
Linda Zaks-Walker, OCT

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